

Rodrigo Azuero Melo

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Citizenship: Colombia. US Permanent Resident.

Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Pennsylvania, 2012-2017.
M.A. Economics, University of Pennsylvania, 2015.
M.A. Economics, Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, 2011.
B.Sc. Economics, *Cum Laude*. Minor: History. Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, 2009.
Econometrics Certificate, Tilburg University, Spring 2008.

Research and Teaching Fields

Labor Economics, Development Economics, Applied Econometrics

Employment

Inter-American Development Bank: (Washington DC)

Economist-Specialist. Fiscal Management Division. 2017-

Team Leader: Economic Sector Work. Special Tax Regimes, Informality, and Productivity in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Team Member: Fiscal Consequences of Aging.

Consultant: Various periods between 2013-2016.

Research Fellow: 2010- 2012.

Universidad de los Andes: (Bogota, Colombia). Research Assistant: January 2009-April 2010.

Ferro Consulting group: (Bogota, Colombia). Consultant: June 2006-January 2009.

Teaching Experience

Instructor:

University of Pennsylvania: Introduction to Microeconomics (Summer, 2015)

Universidad de los Andes: Stata workshop (Spring, 2010)

Teaching Assistant:

University of Pennsylvania: Introduction to Microeconomics (Fall, 2014), Introduction to Statistics (Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016), Intermediate Microeconomics (Fall, 2013)

Universidad de los Andes: Statistics I for Social Sciences (Spring 2009), Integral Calculus (Spring 2009), Microeconomics III (Spring 2010), Differential Calculus (Fall 2008), Game Theory (Fall 2007), Introduction to Economic Theory (Graduate level-Spring, 2009), Econometrics for Impact Evaluation (Graduate level-Spring, 2009)

Universidad Externado de Colombia: Math for Lawyers (Fall, 2006-Fall, 2007)

Publications

Schady, N; Azuero, R *et al.* (2015). “Wealth Gradients in Early Childhood Cognitive Development in Five Latin American Countries”. *Journal of Human Resources*, 50(2):446-463.

Working Papers

Azuero, R. (2016). “Evaluating Early Childhood Policies: An Estimable Model of Family Child Investments”. (Job Market Paper)

Azuero, R. & Zarruk, D. “The Effects of Student Loans on the Provision and Demand for Higher Education”. [slides]

Azuero, R. (2011). “Wealth and the construction of non-cognitive skills. Documento CEDE 011950, Universidad de los Andes.”

Presentations

2017

Arizona State University, Universidad del Rosario (Colombia), American Institutes for Research, IMPAQ International, NERA Economic Consulting.

2016

[EMCON](#): Empirics and Methods in Economics, Northwestern University

University of Pennsylvania: Empirical Micro Seminar. Empirical Micro Workshop.

2015

University of Pennsylvania, Empirical Micro group.

Universidad Católica de Chile. Workshop on Early Childhood Development.

[ECONCON](#). Conference sponsored by Columbia University, New York University, Princeton University, University of Pennsylvania and Yale University.

[LACEA](#): Latin American and Caribbean Economics Association Annual Meetings.

Student advising

Graduate Program in Impact Evaluation. Universidad de los Andes

Rojas, L. A. & Casas, C. The Impact of “Comedores Comunitarios” on Nutritional Outcomes. Grade: 5.0/5.0

Grants

School of Arts and Sciences Conference Grant. University of Pennsylvania. (2016).

Penn Institute for Economic Research. Stipend Matching Grant. (2015).

Latin American and the Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA). Grant to present at the annual LACEA meetings in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 2015.

Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA) Travel Grant. University of Pennsylvania. 2015.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD R01HD065436).
Tilburg University study abroad program. Econometrics Certificate. (90% of tuition). 2008.

Honors, Awards, & Fellowships

Judith Rodin Fellow. Fellowship awarded to doctoral students in the Social Sciences who are committed to nation-building. 2016

University of Pennsylvania Fellowship. 2012.

Cum Laude. Universidad de los Andes. Awarded to students with GPA located in the top 3% of the department during the last 5 years. 2009.

Graduate Dissertation in Economics, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia. Grade: 5.0 / 5.0. Chosen for publication.

Professional activities:

Referee: *International Economic Review*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Economia* (Journal of LACEA);
Coyuntura economica: investigacion economica y social (Fedesarrollo), Book Reviewer (Universidad de los Andes, Economics).

Empirical Micro Lunch organizer. University of Pennsylvania. (Fall 2014-Spring 2015)

Languages

English (Fluent), Spanish (Native), French (Advanced)

Programming skills

Fortran, Matlab, Python, Stata, R, Rcpp, C++, OpenMP, Julia, Cuda

Software

[gmapsdistance](#): R-package to compute distance and travel time between multiple points using the Google Maps Distance API. The package has more than 10,000 downloads.

[Rtauchen](#): R-package to discretize an AR(1) process following Tauchen (1986). A discrete Markov chain that approximates in the sense of weak convergence a continuous-valued univariate Autoregressive process of first order is generated. It is a popular method used in economics and in finance.

[Maximum Likelihood estimation on the GPU using c++](#): Sample code to perform maximum likelihood estimation using graphics processing units (GPU).

[Github website](#)