

Rodrigo Azuero Melo

Department of Economics
University of Pennsylvania
3718 Locust Walk
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Phone: (202) 701-8419
Office: 417
Email: razu@sas.upenn.edu
Website: rodrigoazuero.com

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* (Top 3% GPA of last 5 years). Minor: History. Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, 2009.

Econometrics Certificate, Tilburg University, Spring 2008.

Research and Teaching Fields

Labor Economics, Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Applied Econometrics

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.

Work in Progress

The Role of Executive Function in the Process of Skills Formation. (With Yyannu Cruz and Norbert Schady).

Presentations

2017

Arizona State University.
Universidad del Rosario (Colombia).

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.

Employment

Inter-American Development Bank: (Washington DC)

Consultant: 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.

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 Económica: Investigación Económica y Social* (Journal of 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.

[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.

[Github website](#)

References

Academic References:

Petra Todd, University of Pennsylvania, Professor of Economics, ptodd@econ.upenn.edu

Jere Behrman, University of Pennsylvania, Professor of Economics, jbehrman@sas.upenn.edu

Andrew Shephard, University of Pennsylvania, Assistant Professor of Economics, asheph@econ.upenn.edu

Professional References:

Norbert Schady, Inter-American Development Bank, Principal Economist, norberts@iadb.org

Raquel Bernal, Universidad de los Andes, Professor, rbernal@uniandes.edu.co

Last updated: May 8, 2017