

# Dario Alberto Romero Fonseca

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## Education

- 2016–2022 **Ph.D. Economics**, *Columbia University*, New York, USA.  
2011–2012 **M.A. Economics**, *Universidad de los Andes*, Bogotá, Colombia.  
2007–2010 **B.A. Political Science**, *Universidad de los Andes*, Bogotá, Colombia.  
2006–2010 **B.A. Economics**, *Universidad de los Andes*, Bogotá, Colombia.

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## Research Fields of Interest

Development Economics, Political Economy, Economic History and Empirical Methods

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## Professional Experience

- 2022–today **New York University -Abu Dhabi**, *Post-Doctoral Associate*.  
Abu Dhabi, UAE. Person in Charge: Ph.D. Kevin O'Rourke.  
2014–2016 **Inter-American Development Bank**, *Research Fellow*.  
Washington, DC USA. Person in Charge: Ph.D. Matias Busso.  
2013–2014 **J-PAL LAC**, *Research Analyst*.  
Santiago, Chile. Person in Charge: Ph.D. Francisco Gallego.  
2010–2013 **Universidad del Rosario**, *Research Assistant*.  
Bogotá, Colombia. Person in Charge: Ph.D. Juan Fernando Vargas.

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## Publications

Social distancing and COVID-19 under violence: Evidence from Colombia, with Diego Martin (2024) *Journal of Development Economics*, Volume 170.

Short- and long-run labor market adjustment to import competition, with Juan Blyde, Matias Busso and Kyunglin Park (2023) *Review of International Economics*, pp.1- 18.

Selective Civilian Targeting: The Unintended Consequences of Partial Peace, with Mounu Prem, Andres Rivera and Juan Vargas (2022) *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, vol. 7(3), pp.317- 354.

The Perils of High-Powered Incentives: Evidence from Colombia's False Positives, with Daron Acemoglu, Leopoldo Fergusson, James Robinson and Juan Fernando Vargas (2020). *American Economic Journal*, vol. 12(3), pp.1- 43.

Improving Access to Preventive Maternal Health Care Using Reminders: Experimental Evidence from Guatemala. With Matias Busso and Dario Salcedo (2017), *Economic Letters*, vol. 161, pp. 43-46.

Books or laptops? The effect of shifting from printed to digital delivery of educational content on learning. With Rosangela Bando, Francisco Gallego and Paul J. Gertler (2017). *Economics of Education Review*, vol. 61, pp. 162-173

The effects of financial aid and returns information in selective and less selective schools: Experimental

evidence from Chile. With Matias Busso, Taryn Dinkelman and Claudia Martínez (2017). *Labour Economics*, Vol. 45, pp. 79-91.

Insecurity or Perception of Insecurity? Urban Crime and Dissatisfaction with Life: Evidence from the Case of Bogotá. (2014). *Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy*, Vol. 20(1), pp. 169-208.

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## Chapters in Books

Facts and Determinants of Female Labor Supply in Latin America, with Matias Busso. In “Bridging gender gaps? The rise and deceleration of female labor force participation in Latin America”, Leonardo Gasparini and Mariana Marchioni (Eds), 2015.

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## Working Papers

The Environmental Impact of Civil Conflict: The Deforestation Effect of Paramilitary Expansion in Colombia, with Leopoldo Fergusson and Juan F. Vargas, Cede Working Paper 2014-36.

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## Work in progress

Something Biased This Way Comes: The Effect of Media on Local Elections in US (With Haaris Mateen)

The (unintended?) effects of US military training during the Cold War in Latin-America (With Diego Martin)

An Empire Lost: Spanish Industry and The Effect of Colonial Markets on Peripheral Innovation (Submitted)

Andean Winds of Wisdom: Air Pollution and Academic Achievement in Colombia (with Diego Martin and Dario Salcedo)

Bank Lending and Media Slant (With Haaris Mateen and Elizabeth Berger)

Mass Deportations, Economic Networks and Firm Productivity in Guatemala (With Carlos Schmidt-Padilla)

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## Teaching Experience

Summer 2021, Fall 2020	<b>Introduction to Econometrics (Undergraduate)</b> , <i>Columbia University</i> . Instructor: Seyhan Erden
Spring 2021	<b>Game Theory (Undergraduate)</b> , <i>Columbia University</i> . Instructor: Qingmin Liu
Spring 2021	<b>Perspectives on Economic Studies (Ph.D. 1st Year course)</b> , <i>Columbia University</i> . Instructor: Joseph Stiglitz and Suresh Naidu
Fall 2019, Fall 2017	<b>Political Economy (Undergraduate)</b> , <i>Columbia University</i> . Instructor: John Marshall
Fall 2018	<b>Political Economy (Undergraduate)</b> , <i>Columbia University</i> . Instructor: Alessandra Casella
Spring 2018	<b>Principles of Economics</b> , <i>Columbia University</i> . Instructor: Nicola Zaniboni

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## Conference and Presentations

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| 2024 | RIDGE Santiago, EEA-ESEM Rotterdam, LACEA Montevideo |
| 2023 | RIDGE Montevideo, EHES Vienna, ESOC Washington DC    |

2022	U. de los Andes (Bogotá), INSPER (Sao Pablo), U. Javeriana (Bogotá)
2021	LACEA, Bogotá
2019	LACEA, Puebla

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## Professional Service

### Refereeing

Revista Cuadernos de Economía, Journal of the European Economic Association, QJE, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics

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## Computer skills

Statistical	Stata, SPSS, Eviews, R, Matlab, Phyton	Advanced	Programming and Statistical Analyst
Geographical	ArcGIS, QGIS, GeoDa	Advanced	Quantitative and Statistical Analyst
Word Processor	MS Office, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, Beamer	Advanced	Document Markup and Design

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## Languages

Spanish	Native	English	Fluent
Portuguese	Intermediate	German	Intermediate
French	Beginner	Italian	Beginner
Arabic	Basic		

**Something Biased This Way Comes: The Effect of Media on Local Elections in US** (With Haaris Mateen)

Using the staggered expansion of Sinclair Broadcasting Group (SBG), a conservative leaning TV station operator, from 2012 to 2017, we study how introducing a biased TV station operator affects electoral outcomes. Our findings reveal that SBG acquisition increases the likelihood of a Republican candidate winning House elections, contrasting with the negative impact on Republican performance in presidential elections. Importantly, we document a persistent ideological shift to the right for the winner in House elections, which strengthens over time. Additionally, we show that Republican candidates receive increased individual donations in SBG-acquired areas. This study underscores the significance of analyzing electoral settings where not only voters' preferences but also candidates' strategies and ideology are influenced, highlighting the potential impact of biased media on electoral outcomes and the importance of media ownership regulations

**The (unintended?) effects of US military training during the Cold War in Latin-America** (With Diego Martin)

Have the U.S. foreign military policies impacted conflict and democracy in Latin America? We studied the School of the Americas (SOA), an army training program launched by the U.S. to train Latin American armed forces during the Cold War. We exploited variations from the number of SOA graduates over time in 18 countries and found that SOA reduced democratic measures and increased repression from legal armies. We also studied the effects of SOA graduates in Argentina and Colombia using military promotion rules for officials and the military areas. We found that zones commanded by SOA graduates exhibited higher rates of civilian victimization during the military dictatorship in Argentina and civilian conflict in Colombia. However, we discovered that SOA promoted democratic values after the Cold War in the long term. Our findings show that cohorts with greater exposure to SOA trainees saw an increment of positive effects on support for democracy. Our research highlights the unintended consequences of foreign policies on recipient countries.

**An Empire Lost: Spanish Industry and The Effect of Colonial Markets on Peripheral Innovation (Submitted)**

This paper examines the impact of international market access on the trajectory of technical change using a historical trade shock that reshaped the Spanish textile industry in the late 19th century. Exploiting the effects of a trade policy change in 1891 that raised out-of-the-empire tariffs and forced the purchase of manufactured cotton goods from the metropole's producers by its colonies, I empirically document a significant increase in cotton textile innovation relative to other fabrics. Moreover, I demonstrate the presence of path dependence in innovation, as the disparity in textile innovation between cotton and other fabrics persisted even after the colonies' independence in 1898. Further analysis reveals that the relative prices of cotton fabrics and benefits accrued by cotton firms played a crucial role in stimulating cotton innovation. These results suggest that the innovation observed was not limited to the mere adoption of foreign technology but instead reflected local conditions in shaping incentives for local innovators to develop technologies tailored to specific local requirements. These findings contribute to the literature on the causal relationship between international trade, foreign markets, and the direction of technical change, shedding light on the possibility of innovation in peripheral countries.