

DARIO A. ROMERO

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RESEARCH INTEREST

Development Economics, Political Economy, Economic History

REFERENCES

Suresh Naidu
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Columbia University, NY, USA	2016-22
<i>en route</i> : M.A. in Economics (2017). M.Phil. in Economics (2018)	(expected)
M.A. Economics, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia.	2011-12
B.A. Political Science, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia.	2007-10
B.A. Economics, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia.	2006-10

JOB MARKET PAPER

“An Empire Lost: Spanish Industry and The Effect of Colonial Markets and Trade on Innovation”

Abstract: This paper studies how changes in access to international markets affect the direction of technical change. I use two historical trade shocks that changed markets for the Spanish textile industry at the end of the 19th century, along with newly digitized data on textile patents and production in Spain. First, after Spain effectively forced its colonies to buy manufactured cotton goods in 1891, I document an increase in cotton textile innovation relative to other fabrics. Second, after the Spanish-American war and the unexpected loss of these captive markets, I find innovation in cotton textiles changes towards new weaving patents relative to other parts of the cotton textile production process such as threading. After 1898, cotton industrialists entered and competed in international markets that demanded more sophisticated fabrics. Using novel archive data from a big cotton firm, I provide price and quantity-based evidence of the strength of each type of technical change. Finally, I show that these new incentives on innovation translated directly into adopting new mechanized tools in the sector. I find evidence of a rise in industrial technology due to an increase in mechanized cotton looms used in Spain after 1900. Together, these results provide some of the first causal evidence on how international trade shapes technical change direction. Although each shock meant access to new markets to Spanish cotton textiles, their effect on innovation differed because the composition of textile demand was different.

RESEARCH PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

PUBLICATIONS

- **Killing Social Leaders for Territorial Control: The Unintended Consequences of Peace**, with Mounu Prem, Andres Rivera and Juan Vargas (forthcoming) *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*
- **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.

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.

WORKING PAPERS

- **Labor Market Adjustment to Import Competition: Long-run Evidence from Establishment Data**, with Juan Blyde and Matias Busso. IDB WORKING PAPER SERIES N° IDB- WP -01100
- **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.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Non-State Actors in Pandemic: Violence as a Territorial Control Strategy during COVID-19 (With Diego Martin)
- Every Cloud has a Silver Lining: The Effect of Cotton Crisis on Spanish XIXth Century Textile Industry
- The (unintended?) effects of US military training during the Cold War in Latin-America
- Civilians in the Time of Counterinsurgency: The Consequences of Foreign Military Training in Colombia
- Something Biased This Way Comes: The Effect of Media on Local Elections in US (With Haaris Maatin)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2021** Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA, Bogotá)
- 2019** Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA, Puebla)

TEACHING AND WORK EXPERIENCE

TEACHING FELLOW

Columbia University

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

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Columbia University

Francois Gerard June 2018- August 2019

Inter-American Development Bank

Matias Busso 2014–2016

J-PAL LAC

Francisco Gallego 2013–2014

Universidad del Rosario

Juan Fernando Vargas 2010–2013

RESEARCH GRANTS AND ACADEMIC AWARDS

RESEARCH GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Research Grant	2021
Columbia Development Colloquium; \$1,000	
Dissertation Fellowship	2021
Department of Economics, Columbia University	

AWARDS

Dean's Fellow (Ph.D. in Economics)	2016-2021
Columbia University	

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

REFEREEING

Revista Cuadernos de Economía

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full name: Dario Alberto Romero Fonseca

Citizenship: Colombian

Birth Year: 1989

LANGUAGE

Spanish (Native)

English (Fluent)

Portuguese (Advanced)

German (Intermediate)

French (Beginner)

Italian (Beginner)

PROGRAMMING SKILLS

Stata, Python, ArcGIS, QGIS, GeoDa, MATLAB, R, Wolfram Mathematica