

CAROLINA LOPEZ

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Personal Information:

Female, Salta-Argentina.

Graduate Studies:

M.A. in Economics, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, summa cum laude, 2012.

Ph.D. Student in Economics, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, 2012-2015.

Ph.D. in Economics, Brown University, 2015-2022.

Position:

2022-2023	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School
2023-	Research Economist, The World Bank Research Group

Research Fields:

Primary fields: Development Economics, Economics of Education, Behavioral Economics

Secondary fields: Labor Economics

Publications:

“Exacerbated Inequalities: the Learning Loss from COVID-19 in Italy” (with Michela Carlana and Eliana La Ferrara), *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, vol. 113, pp. 489-493 (2023).

“Does Patient Demand Contribute to the Overuse of Prescription Drugs?” (with Anja Sautmann and Simone Schaner), *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, vol. 14, number 1, 225–260 (2022).

“Long-run effects of youth training programs: Experimental evidence from Argentina” (with María Laura Alzúa and Guillermo Cruces) *Economic Inquiry*, vol. 54, issue 4, pp. 1839–1859 (2016).

“Effect of a community-led sanitation intervention on child diarrhoea and child growth in rural Mali: A cluster randomized controlled trial” (with Amy Pickering, Habiba Djebbari, Massa Coulibaly, and Maria Laura Alzua). *The Lancet Global Health*, vol. 3, number 11, pp. 701–711 (2015).

“The long and winding road towards fiscal decentralization” (with María Laura Alzúa). *Económica – Universidad Nacional de La Plata*, vol. LX, pp. 3-43 (2014).

“Un Analisis Multidimensional de la Pobreza: Evidencia Reciente de las Regiones de Argentina” (with Romina Safojan). *Revista de Economía Política de Buenos Aires - Universidad de Buenos Aires (REPBA)*, 7, vol. 12, pp. 9-44 (2013).

Teaching Experience:

Fall, 2018	The Economics of Latin Americans, undergraduate level Brown University, Teaching Assistant for Professor Pedro Dal Bó
Spring, 2017	Applied Economics Analysis, graduate PhD in Economics level Brown University, Teaching Assistant for Professor Anja Sautmann
2012-2015	International Economics, BA in Economics, Universidad Nacional de La Plata Aires, Teaching Assistant for Professors Natalia Porto and Martin Cicowiez
2011-2015	Development Economics, BA in Economics, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Teaching Assistant for Professor Maria Laura Alzua

Research Experience and Other Employment:

Fall, 2021	Brown University, Research Assistant for Professor Pedro Dal Bó
Summer, 2021	The World Bank, Consultant
Spring, 2019	Brown University, Research Assistant for Professor Pedro Dal Bó
Summer, 2017	Brown University, Research Assistant for Professor Anja Sautmann
Fall, 2016	Brown University, Research Assistant for Professor Anja Sautmann
Summer, 2015	The World Bank, Consultant

2011-2015 CEDLAS (Center for Distributive, Labor, and Social Studies) at Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Research Assistant and Junior Researcher

Professional Activities:

Presentations

Spring, 2024 LEER Conference (KU Leuven)*
 Fall, 2023 Congreso Internacional Ideice (Dominican Republic), Southern Economic Association, Workshop on Educational choices and transitions in secondary and higher education (PSE), Workshop on Economics of Education (UAndes Chile)
 Spring, 2023 Pacific Conference for Development Economics (PacDev), Society of Labor Economics (SOLE)
 Fall, 2022 Economics and Social Policy Seminar Series (Harvard University)
 Spring, 2022 Economic Science Association, Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)
 Fall, 2021 Applied Microeconomics Lunch Seminar, Brown University; Department of Economics at Universidad Nacional de La Plata; Rising Scholars Conference Harvard Business School; LACEA RIDGE Job Market Showcase; Asociación Argentina de Economía Política at Universidad de Buenos Aires; NEUDC; Economic Science Association Job Market Seminar
 Spring, 2021 Population Association of America, Washington
 Fall, 2020 Applied Microeconomics Lunch Seminar, Brown University
 Spring, 2020 Universidad Católica de Salta, Argentina; Applied Microeconomics Lunch Seminar, Brown University
 Spring, 2019 Population Association of America, Austin
 Fall, 2018 Applied Microeconomics Lunch Seminar, Brown University
 Spring, 2017 Applied Microeconomics Lunch Seminar, Brown University
 Spring, 2015 Canadian Economic Association, Ryerson University
 * Scheduled

Affiliations

2015-Present Visiting Researcher, CEDLAS (Center for Distributive, Labor, and Social Studies) at Universidad Nacional de La Plata

Referee

Oxford Development Studies, American Economic Review, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Económica.

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

Fall-2021 George Borts' Prize in recognition of an outstanding Ph.D. dissertation. Department of Economics. Brown University.
 2020-2021 Interdisciplinary Opportunities in the Humanities and Social Sciences, 2020-21. Population Studies and Training Center. Brown University.
 Spring-2020 Merit Dissertation Fellowship. Department of Economics. Brown University.
 2017-2018 Fellowship. Graduate Program in Development. Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs. Brown University.
 2013-2015 Research Fellowship. Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET). Buenos Aires, Argentina.
 2013 Distinguished Graduate Award for the Highest GPA of the M.A. in Economics. Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP). Buenos Aires, Argentina.
 2012 Best Argentine Young Economist Award. Asociación Argentina de Economía Política (AAEP).
 2012 Best grade in the class 2010. Master's Degree in Economics. Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP).

2010	Scholarship. Master's Degree in Economics. Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP).
2009-2012	Research Fellowship. Consejo de Investigación de la Universidad Nacional de Salta (CIUNSa).

Research Grants:

Fall 2022	Tinker Foundation
Summer-2021	Summer Funding, Graduate Program in Development. Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University
Spring-2021	Bravo Center Award, Department of Economics, Brown University
Fall-2020	Bravo Center Award, Department of Economics, Brown University
Summer-2019	Award for Research Proposals on "Human capital formation and youth access to high-quality employment in Latin America" CAF-Development Bank of Latin America
Summer-2019	Summer Award to Promote Population Research Projects, Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University
Summer-2019	Summer Funding, Graduate Program in Development. Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University
Spring-2018	Sarmiento Research Award for Latin American Studies. Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), Brown University
Summer-2018	Summer Funding, Graduate Program in Development. Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University
Summer-2018	Global Health Scholarship, Global Health Initiative, Brown University
2017	Graduate School International Travel Grant, Brown University (\$800); PSTC Travel Grant. Brown University

Research Papers:

"Tripping at the Finish Line: Experimental Evidence on the Role of Misperceptions on Secondary School Completion"

Students may put insufficient effort into graduating due to inaccurate beliefs about graduation probabilities or the economic benefits of obtaining a high school diploma, missing out on large economic returns. In an experiment with senior high-school students in Argentina, I test the effectiveness of providing information about efficiently allocating effort during senior year, to correct beliefs about their graduation chances. A separate group receives information about the returns to education. The treatments increase graduation by 10 and 20 percent, respectively, and college enrollment by 38 percent. Graduation improvements are larger for students with a lower probability of graduating at baseline.

"The Economics Performance of Native Groups in Argentina" with Pedro Dal Bó

In this paper, we study the economic and human development outcomes of native peoples in Argentina. We find worse results, on average, for native peoples than non-native peoples. The magnitude of the differences is, on average, 10 percent of the standard deviation. We also study the difference in the intergenerational transmission of education between natives and non-natives. Finally, we describe the differences in economic and human development outcomes among the different native groups, finding significant differences, and study whether these differences correlate with a characteristic of their pre-Columbian economy: the practice of agriculture.

"Do Patients Value High-Quality Medical Care? Experimental Evidence from Malaria Diagnosis and Treatment" with Anja Sautmann and Simone Schaner

Can information about the value of diagnostic tests improve provider practice and help patients recognize higher quality of care? In a randomized experiment at public clinics in Mali, health providers and patients received tailored information about the importance of rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) for malaria. The provider training increased provider reliance on RDTs, which improved the match between a patient's malaria status and treatment with antimalarials by 15-30 percent. Nonetheless, patients were significantly less satisfied with the care they received, driven by those whose prior beliefs did not match their true malaria status. The patient information intervention did not affect treatment outcomes or patient satisfaction and reduced malaria testing. These findings are consistent with highly persistent patient beliefs that translate into low demand for diagnostic testing and limit patients' ability to recognize improved quality of care.