

Juan Pablo Bautista Zambrano – Universidad del Rosario

Assignment 1

Who I am? Well, to begin with, my name is Juan Pablo Bautista Zambrano (I have my mother's two last names because she was a single mother), I am 23 years old and I am an economist.

I come from a rural family, my grandparents are from Boyacá, a city that is mainly dedicated to agriculture. I was born in 1996 in the city of Bogotá. I lived my first two years of life in a house in the south of the city with my mom, my two uncles and my grandparents. Then, each of my uncles bought an apartment and they went to live alone, but I only know this from the stories that my mother tells me. I have no memories of this time.

When I turned 3, my mom bought an apartment in the northwest of the city, we moved with my grandparents. My mom is a physical therapist and since I can remember she has been very dedicated, she was in charge of me and my grandparents, she assumed all the responsibilities, and this left me great lessons. Having such a responsible and dedicated mom, made me learn these important qualities. In my school days I was a good student, in some years I got the recognition for being the best student and most of the time I got good grades. At this time, I learned one of my favorite hobbies which is to play guitar, I really enjoyed spending hours and hours playing my favorite songs. Also, I learn to skateboard, I really enjoyed it because I went out with my friends, we skated around the city and we met people.

In the last year of my school the dilemma arose about, what I am going to do in life? Initially I thought about studying medicine, however, in Colombia the career is very expensive, so I looked for a second alternative. I realized that I was doing well in mathematics and in this last year I studied a subject called "economics", very basic things were seen but I remember that in a homework we had, I had the best grade and this also motivated me to study economics.

After finishing school, I spent 6 months looking for a university, considering the costs, since studying at one of the best universities in the country has a high price. Finally, I decided to study at Universidad del Rosario because of its high academic level and because my mother is a

graduate. We looked for financing and we obtained a loan that allowed me to start studying in 2014. During my 4 years at university I did well, the program was started by 28 student, I did not consider myself a good student due to lack of confidence, I always thought that I was going to fail the exams. In the end, I got 2 scholarships in 2 semesters and of the 28 students we started, we only finished 2 without failing a subject.

In 2018, my mother met and helped a high-ranking national government official in charge of one of the most important entities in the country; she told him that I was a good student who had obtained scholarships and he promised my mother that when I finished my studies I would go to work there. I graduated in early 2019 and thanks to the promise made by the high official, today I am working. This part explains much of my present because earning money has allowed me to help my mother with all the expenses and also to continue my career studying the master's degree. I also feel that with this, all the effort we have made with my mother throughout life is recognized. At the beginning of the 2020, I gave my mother a trip to Cartagena, a beautiful city on the Colombian coast; I was really very happy because I was able to recognize my mom a little for all the effort she has made for me.

Who am I today? I feel that I am a dedicated person, a person committed to work and ready to continue with my professional career to continue growing day by day. I am currently working from home due to COVID-19. sometimes I have time to play video games which is also one of my favorite hobbies.

How do I look in the future? In a year I hope to fulfill one of my biggest dreams which is to have my own car, I hope it is BMW or Mercedes Benz, they are my favorite brands. In 5 years, I see myself still working in the government sector, however in a higher position, the relationships I build with colleagues will be of great help; I would also like to do a postgraduate degree in finance. In 10 years I see myself as the head of some government office, with a family and my own house, I don't see my self studying a doctorate, I really admire the people who do it for the high academic demand and the level of dedication, but I do not think that at some point be ready to do one. Anyway, life has many twists and turns.

This course interested me a lot because 2 years ago I was in a course on impact evaluation and I think that causal inference is closely related to this topic. I wanted to take the course as a complement.