

# MANUEL FELIPE ROJAS ECHEVERRI

+1 (814) 699 2170 ◊ mxr1137@psu.edu

The Pennsylvania State University ◊ Department of Economics, PA 16802

website: [www.manuelrojas.org](http://www.manuelrojas.org) ◊ github: [mazathoth1](https://github.com/mazathoth1)

## EDUCATION

---

**The Pennsylvania State University**

Ph.D. in Economics

*2018 - expected May 2024*

**Universidad del Rosario**

M.A. in Economics

*2014-2017*

**Universidad Nacional de Colombia**

B.A. in Economics

*2009-2014*

## FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

---

**Primary:** Industrial Organization, Public Economics

**Secondary:** Applied Microeconomics, Regulation Economics, Econometrics

## JOB MARKET PAPER

---

**Distributional Effects of a Nonlinear Price Scheme in Public Utilities** Job Market Paper

Nonlinear pricing schemes are the primary instruments that policymakers use to ensure access to public utilities for low-income households while penalizing high-income households for overconsumption. In this paper, I evaluate the effectiveness of these pricing schemes and introduce a novel methodology to analyze their impact on the distribution of consumption and welfare in public utilities, with a specific focus on the case of water utilities in Bogotá, Colombia. To achieve this, I employ a combination of reduced-form and structural model techniques, leveraging Bogotá's unique context, where households have historically encountered diverse pricing schemes, including the introduction of additional nonlinear elements in the pricing scheme through a 2012 policy change. Notably, the results reveal that the nonlinear pricing scheme exhibits regressive characteristics, benefiting wealthier households with higher consumption levels and more significant welfare gains. Furthermore, the evidence suggests that income effects, driven by changes in the virtual incomes of households, are the primary driving force behind these outcomes. These findings underscore the necessity for an alternative approach to achieving more significant equity in the distribution of benefits within public utilities.

## OTHER PAPERS

---

**Competitive Bundling and Switching Cost in Telecommunications Markets**

Work in Progress

**The Water Vital Minimum: Analyzing the Bogotá Free Water Policy**

Replication Paper

*With Juan Miguel Gallego, Juan Daniel Oviedo, and Carlos Sepulveda.*

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

**The Pennsylvania State University**

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Economic Mergers (Undergraduate)

*2023*

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Sports Economics (Undergraduate)

*2022*

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Environmental Economics (Undergraduate)

*2020-2022*

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Intermediate Microeconomics (Undergraduate)

*2020*

## Universidad del Rosario

Teaching Assistant: Theory of Regulation and Informality (Undergraduate) 2017  
Teaching Assistant: Mathematical Economics (Graduate) 2016

## RESEARCH AND RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

---

### The Pennsylvania State University

Research Assistant: Prof. Karl Schurter

*Summer 2021, Summer 2022, Summer 2023*

### Leico Consultores

Economic Analyst

*2017-2018*

### Universidad del Rosario

Research Assistant: Prof. Juan Daniel Oviedo

*2014-2017*

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

---

Science Ministry of Colombia Scholarship

*2020-2022*

Banco de la República de Colombia Scholarship

*2018-2022*

COLFUTURO Scholarship

*2018-2020*

## CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

---

IAES 96th Conference (Philadelphia, PA)

*2023*

## LANGUAGES

---

Spanish (Native), English (Fluent).

## COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS

---

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Julia, Matlab, Stata, R

## REFERENCES

---

Joris Pinkse

Professor in Economics

Department of Economics

Pennsylvania State University

+1 (814) 863 0508

joris@psu.edu

Karl Schurter

Assistant Professor of Economics

Department of Economics

Pennsylvania State University

+1 (814) 865 2201

kschurter@psu.edu

Michael Gechter

Assistant Professor of Economics

Department of Economics

Pennsylvania State University.

+1 (814) 867 3308

mdg5396@psu.edu