

Vinicius Okada da Silva

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Education

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

2019 – Present

Ph.D. in Economics

Case Western Reserve University

2015 – 2019

BA Economics, BS Math and Physics

Research Interests

Economic History, Development Economics

Working Papers

"Jesuit Missionaries in the Colonial Amazon: Long-term Effects on Human Capital."

Abstract: This paper aims to identify Jesuit missions' long-term impact on human capital and development in the Brazilian Amazon. Using Brazilian census data from 1872 and 2010 combined with a novel dataset on the location of Jesuit missions in the Brazilian Amazon, I find that places closer to the former missions had higher literacy rates in both periods. To estimate the causal effect, I compare the impacts of the Jesuits against other missionary orders, the nearby Jesuit missions in the state of Maranhão, and I use an instrumental variable approach that considers the locations of Tupi-speaking tribes in the region. Further, demographic differences, the number of schools, or school attendance do not explain the results. This paper extends and reinforces the literature analyzing the positive effects of missionaries' transmission of human capital in the colonial period.

Work in Progress

"Staple Crop Pest Damage and Natural Resources Exploitation: Fall Army Worm Infestation and Charcoal Production in Zambia" with Protensia Hadunka and Kathy Baylis

"Long-Lasting Effects of Bible Translation on Literacy: Evidence from Uganda" with Noelia Romero, Abigail Stocker, and Rebecca Thornton

Teaching Experience

Department of Economics - University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Lecturer:

Fall 2022: ECON 303 - Intermediate Macroeconomics*

Head Teaching Assistant:

Spring 2022: ECON 303 - Intermediate Macroeconomics*

Fall 2021: ECON 303 - Intermediate Macroeconomics*

Teaching Assistant:

Spring 2021: ECON 303 - Intermediate Macroeconomics

Fall 2020: ECON 303 - Intermediate Macroeconomics*

* indicates ranked in the "List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students".

Presentations

- [ASREC Conference \(2023\)](#)
"Jesuit Missionaries in the Colonial Amazon: Long-term Effects on Human Capital."
- [CIES Conference \(2023\)](#)
"Long-Lasting Effects of Bible Translation on Literacy: Evidence from Uganda"
- [Development Day at Notre Dame \(2021\)](#)
"Jesuit Missionaries in the Colonial Amazon: Long-term Effects on Human Capital."

Referee Services

Economics of Education Review