

BERNARDO B. RIBEIRO

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Research Fields

Development Economics, Urban Economics

Education

Vancouver School of Economics, University of British Columbia

PhD in Economics

2026 (expected)

Advisors: Claudio Ferraz, Victor Couture, and Munir Squires

Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio)

MA in Economics

2017

BA in Economics

2014

Publications

Efficiency and equity of input subsidies: experimental evidence from Tanzania (*with Xavier Giné, Shreena Patel, and Ildrim Valley*), *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 2022.

Work in progress

Public housing and intergenerational mobility: evidence from Brazil (*with Gabriel L. Mariante*)

Abstract: Public housing is one of the most widespread urban policies, providing subsidized homes to low-income families in both developed and developing countries. While prior studies find that such programs generate only modest effects for adult beneficiaries, their long-term impacts on children remain poorly understood. We study one of the largest public housing initiatives in the world, implemented in Brazil, to examine effects across generations. Consistent with evidence from other contexts, we find that adult beneficiaries experience modest declines in employment. In contrast, their children see transformative gains. Those exposed to public housing at age 11 are 20 percent more likely to have a formal job at age 25 than those first exposed at age 18 or older. The effects are concentrated among families at the bottom of the income distribution and are explained by improved proximity to high quality schools following relocation. Our findings show that the location of public housing is critical for determining its impacts on both adults and children, and for shaping the overall effect of the policy on intergenerational mobility.

Accessibility, city size, and economic development (*with Prottoy Akbar, Victor Couture, Gilles Duranton, and Adam Storeygard*)

Making job training work for the youth (*with Xavier Giné, Alejandro de la Fuente, and Meritxell Martinez*)

Standardization and simplification of credit card statements: evidence from a lab experiment (*with Edgar G. Cortés, Paul A. de la Cruz, Xavier Giné, Pedro G. León-Nájera, and José Luis Negrin*)

Work Experience

Analysis Group

Summer Associate | Montreal, QC, Canada

2025

- Conducted microeconomic analysis using empirical research tools to support expert reports and testimony in litigation cases.
- Produced error-free, detail-oriented deliverables for fast-paced projects, collaborating closely with case teams in a client-focused environment.

University of British Columbia

Research Assistant | Vancouver, BC, Canada

2021-2023

- Fieldwork supervision and big data analysis for project “Accessibility, city size, and economic development” under the supervision of Professor Victor Couture.
- Supported fundraising and helped foster connections with policymakers and other relevant stakeholders in Kampala and Ghana.

The World Bank

Research Assistant | Washington, DC, USA

2017-2020

- Worked at the Development Research Group under the supervision of Xavier Giné and David McKenzie.
- Contributed to 15 research projects across 8 countries, including drafting funding proposals, supervising fieldwork, data analysis and presentation of findings.
- Worked alongside researchers, policymakers, and operational staff, playing managerial and supervised roles based on project needs.

Climate Policy Initiative

Research Assistant | Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

2013

- Provided research support for projects focused on economic and environmental issues in Brazil under the supervision of Dimitri Szerman.
- Managed and processed large administrative datasets from Brazilian government records, including geo-referenced data, ensuring data quality and accuracy for research analysis.

Teaching Experience

University of British Columbia

Teaching Assistant | Vancouver, BC, Canada

2021-present

- *Classes:* Introduction to Microeconomics (2025), Economic Analysis of the Law (2024), Introduction to Macroeconomics (2021-2024), The Process of Economic Development (2023).

Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio)

Teaching Assistant | Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

2011, 2016

- *Classes:* Political Economy (2016), Introduction to Macroeconomics (2011).

Research Grants

- Faculty of Arts Graduate Student Research Award, University of British Columbia 2025
- Development Economics Challenge, CEGA (with Gabriel L. Mariante) 2024
- IGC (with Prottoy Akbar, Victor Couture, Gilles Duranton, and Adam Storeygard) 2023, 2025
- CIDER Small Grants in Innovative Data, University of British Columbia 2023

Awards and Honors

- Graduate Fellowship in Gambling Research, British Columbia Lottery Corporation 2024
- Four Year Doctoral Fellowship (4YF), University of British Columbia 2020-2023
- CAPES Scholarship for graduate students 2015-2017

Other writing

Beyond the S-curve: insurance penetration, institutional quality and financial market development (*with Xavier Giné, Fiona Stewart and Peter Wrede*), *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 8925*, 2019.

Other information

Software: Stata, R, Python, SurveyCTO, High-performance computing (HPC), Unix, SLURM

Languages: Portuguese (native), English and Spanish (fluent)

Citizenship: Brazil, Canada (Permanent Resident)