

Bianca Ravani Cecato

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EDUCATION

University of British Columbia

September 2017 - present

PhD candidate in Food & Resource Economics - Centre for Food, Resource and Environmental Economics (CFREE).

- Research supervisors: Carol McAusland (LFS – UBC), and Patrick Baylis (VSE – UBC).
- Areas of concentration: Climate change and migration; Economic effects of air pollution; Information and enforcement of environmental regulations on air pollution.

- **Awards:**

- 4 Year Fellowship (4YF) for doctoral students.
- Best paper award at the 8th Canadian PhD and Early Career Workshop in Environmental and Resource Economics, for the paper “Newspapers, Information and Enforcement of Environmental Laws”.

Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Rio de Janeiro – PUC-Rio

May 2015

Master of Arts in Economics

- Areas of concentration: Applied Microeconomics; Development Economics; Labor Economics.
- Thesis - The Labor Market Effects of Credit Shocks: Evidence from the 2008-09 Financial Crisis

- **Awards:** Master’s student fellowship by Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (Capes), from the Brazilian Ministry of Education.

Fundação Getúlio Vargas

July 2012

Bachelor of Arts in Economics

Università Luigi Bocconi, Milan, Italy

January - July 2011

Undergraduate Exchange Program

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENTS

Research assistant at the Vancouver School of Economics (VSE) - UBC

January 2019 – Present

- Research Assistant (under Professor Patrick Baylis) with intense programming in R, using air quality monitor data for air pollution and social media (twitter) data to measure people’s response to air quality.
- Joint appointment with the Energy Policy Institute (EPIC) from the University of Chicago for field work in New Delhi. Assisting in implementing a research control trial (RCT) experiment in the field of the economics of air pollution (October - November 2019).

UBC Sustainability Scholars Program in partnership with Metro Vancouver

May – August 2019

- Summer internship for graduate students, under the mentorship of Metro Vancouver and the British Columbia Ministry of Environment.
- Solo authored a report for Metro Vancouver, which synthesized the outcomes of the various elements of a visual air quality pilot study for the region, and developed recommendations for improving visual air quality.

Research Analyst, World Bank - Office of the Chief Economist of the Latin America and Caribbean Region (LCR-CE), Washington D.C, USA

May 2015 – July 2017

- Responsible for preparing database on energy prices for analysis; calculating fiscal and economic impacts of energy subsidies; assisting in the preparation of a final report.
- Provided valuable research assistance on various academic papers covering topics of labor, growth, and development.
- Assisted on the preparation of LCR-CE semi-annual policy reports.

Research assistant in joint project by PUC-Rio and Columbia University

April 2014 – April 2015

- The project aimed to investigate the impact of the minimum wage on capital and labor allocation decisions within firms.
- Research Assistant with intense Stata and SAS programming, using various Brazilian surveys: Brazilian Household surveys (PNAD and census), Brazilian matched employer-employee data (RAIS), Brazilian Annual Manufacturing Survey (PIA).

Teaching Assistant

March – December 2014

- Undergraduate course in Development Economics at PUC-Rio.

Teaching Assistant

September 2018 – April 2022

- Undergraduate course in economic and financial analysis for engineering students at UBC.
- Undergraduate course in food and resource economics at UBC.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Paper: Migration Costs and the Environment

Joint work with Patrick Baylis (VSE – UBC) and Frederik Noack (LFS – UBC)

Abstract: Is mobility an effective adaptation strategy against climate change? We use detailed longitudinal data over two decades on individual migration in Indonesia, in combination with rainfall data, to evaluate the consequences of migration in response to weather shocks on individual consumption. We use an instrumental variables approach for migration, based on a measure of ethnic social networks. We find that households with large migrant networks are more likely to migrate in response to short-term negative rainfall shocks. Our main results suggest that one month of rainfall below average in the origin location reduces consumption by 2.31%, but if the individual migrates out consumption increases by roughly 5.3%, more than offsetting the negative impact of the rainfall shock. Lastly, we estimate that more than half of short-run migration as a response to weather shocks still occurs in the long-run as a response to climate change.

Paper: Newspapers, Information and Enforcement of Environmental Laws

Abstract: This study investigates how local newspaper closures affect environmental monitoring and enforcement activities by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The rationale is based on a framework where newspapers may influence the probability of detection of environmental violations, by serving as an informant to the regulator, to citizens and to other firms. I find evidence that a daily newspaper closure leads to a drop in inspections and enforcement actions that represents 20% and 8% of its yearly average, respectively. I explore the mechanisms behind these results, and I find suggestive evidence that (1) newspapers enhance spillover effects of deterrence for facilities in the same jurisdiction, and (2) the drop in monitoring and enforcement after a newspaper closure is more pronounced for firms that are not obliged to self-report, which suggests newspapers have a role in disclosing information to the regulator about facilities whose actions are harder to observe.

Paper: Lead Pollution and School Outcomes

Joint work with Erin Litzow (LFS – UBC) and Tatiana Zarete (LFS – UBC)

Abstract: This paper is in its very early stages and aims to explore the effects of lead pollution on educational outcomes in Mexico. The increase in lead pollution in the country in the late 2000's was due to stricter regulation on lead emissions

in the US, which led to recycling battery facilities (that emit lead in their process) in the US to shift production to Mexico, shifting lead emissions from the former country to the latter. We plan to use a student level panel data on standardized test scores in Mexico, along with the geolocation of the recycling facilities and schools. We will use a differences-in-differences methodology that compares standardized scores of children in schools close to these factories (within 2 miles) with the ones a bit further away (within 4 miles), after the production shifted to Mexico relative to before. This research contributes to understanding how stricter regulation in developed countries might affect human capital development in developing countries where regulation is less strict.

POLICY REPORTS

Report: Lower Fraser Valley Visual Air Quality Pilot Study: Synthesis of Findings In partnership with Metro Vancouver.

Summary: This report synthesizes the outcomes of the various elements of the Lower Fraser Valley visual air quality pilot study and, where possible, identifies the key features of the study that could be relevant to developing recommendations for a visual air quality program. Regional work on visual air quality has been coordinated by the BC Visibility Coordinating Committee. Results, findings, and recommendations arising from the pilot study inform the development of actions for improving visual air quality.

VOLUNTEER WORK

Volunteer at Academy of Hope (adult public charter school)

February – June 2016

- Volunteer as a tutor for mathematics.

Volunteering in Favela Santa Marta (Santa Marta Slum), Rio de Janeiro

March – December 2010

- Taught Mathematics and English to children of all ages.

RELEVANT SKILLS

- **Languages:** Native Portuguese, fluent in English, advanced Spanish, basic Italian and French.
- **Technical skills:** Advanced Stata; Advanced R; Intermediate SAS; Basic Python; Proficient in LaTeX and MS Office (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint).