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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston, MA, May 2023 (expected)
Dissertation Title: *Essays in Gender, Earnings, and Geography*
Main advisor: Daniele Paserman
Dissertation Committee: Daniele Paserman, Kevin Lang, and Linh Tô

Master, Economics and Finance, Center of Monetary and Financial Studies, Madrid, Spain, 2017

Licentiate, Economics (*with Honors*), University of Costa Rica, San José, Costa Rica, 2015

B.A., Economics (*with Honors*), University of Costa Rica, San José, Costa Rica, 2013

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Labor Economics, Development Economics

WORKING PAPERS

“[The Geography of Women’s Opportunity: Evidence from Indonesia](#),” September 2022. Job Market paper.

“Do Elite Universities Overpay Their Faculty?”, (with Shulamit Kahn and Kevin Lang), September 2022.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Gender and the Urban Wage Premium”

“Education and Skill Investment” (joint with Costas Cavounidis, Vittoria Dicandia, Kevin Lang, and Raghav Malhotra)

“Improving the Link between Vocational Schools and Industry: Evaluation of Teacher Training in Indonesia” (joint with Masyhur Hilmy)

PRESENTATIONS

Summer School in Urban Economics (Ph.D. Student Workshop), Virtual, 2021

LACEA-LAMES Annual Meeting, Bogotá, Colombia, 2021

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Research Grant, Indonesian Research Fund, Spring 2021

Research Grant, Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics, Spring 2020

Dean’s Student Fellowship, Boston University, 2017-2022

Master Student Fellowship, CEMFI, 2015-2017

Honors Fellowship, University of Costa Rica, Spring 2012-Fall 2013

Honors Fellowship, University of Costa Rica, Spring 2009-Fall 2011

WORK EXPERIENCE

Academic

Research Assistant to Professor Kevin Lang, Boston University, 2019-Present
Research Assistant to Professor Pedro Mira, CEMFI, Summer 2016

Non-Academic

Junior Data Analyst, Bac-Credomatic Bank, San José, Costa Rica, 2013-2014

REFeree EXPERIENCE

Journal of Labor Economics, Feminist Economics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow, Poverty and Discrimination, Department of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2019

Teaching Fellow, Principles of Microeconomics, Department of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2018-Spring 2019

Instructor, Introduction to Economics, Department of Economics, University of Costa Rica, 2014-2015

LANGUAGES

Native Fluency: English and Spanish

COMPUTER SKILLS: STATA, MATLAB, R, LaTeX, Git

CITIZENSHIP/VISA STATUS: Costa Rican/F1

REFERENCES

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The Geography of Women's Opportunity: Evidence from Indonesia (Job Market Paper)

Large and persistent differences exist in women's labor force participation within multiple countries. These persistent differences in employment can arise if where women grow up shapes their work choices. However, they can also occur under endogenous sorting, so that women who want to work move to places where more women work. In this paper, I use rich data from Indonesia to argue that the place women grow up in shapes their participation in the labor market as adults. To do so, I leverage variation coming from women moving across labor markets to estimate the effect on women's labor force participation of spending more time in their birthplace. My strategy is similar to that of Chetty and Hendren (2018). It compares the labor supply choices of women who currently live in the same location but who emigrated from their birthplace at different ages. My results indicate that birthplace has strong and persistent effects on adult women's labor supply. By the time they turn sixteen, women born in a location at the 75th of female employment will be 4 to 10 p.p. more likely to work than those born in a 25th percentile location. Place is particularly important during the formative period between 9 and 16 years old. These results suggest that approximately 45 percent of the current spatial inequality in women's employment is transmitted to the next generation growing up in these locations.

Cities, Gender, and the Urban Wage Premium in the United States

It is well known that big U.S. cities pay higher wages, but there is growing evidence that this urban wage premium has declined since the eighties (Autor, 2019). In this paper, I use data from U.S. Commuting Zones for the period between 1970 and 2020 to document that the decline in the urban wage premium affected men and women differently. While women were relatively isolated from the premium decline, men with lower education bore the brunt of the impact. This caused a significant relative increase in women's urban wage premium: their premium went from being on par with men's in 1970 to being 44% larger in 2010. I argue that these differential trends result from a combination of gender specialization and the evolution of urban skill premiums. Urban premiums declined the most for those skills low-education men use more intensively.

Do Elite Universities Overpay Their Faculty?

(with Shulamit Khan and Kevin Lang)

Recent research emphasizes that firms are important drivers of pay inequality. In this paper, we apply the Abowd, Kramarz, and Margolis (1999) model to measure whether there are significant firm (university/college) effects on faculty earnings in academia. Specifically, we use the model to measure the pecuniary rents associated with working as tenure-track faculty at a more prestigious university or college in the United States. To do so, we take advantage of matched employer-employee data from the Survey of Doctorate Recipients. We find little evidence of pecuniary university premiums in the most prestigious US academic institutions. Once we control for urbanicity, the effect of university/college rankings on institutions' premiums is statistically insignificant and sufficiently precisely measured that we can rule out anything larger than modest effects. We then relate our findings with those of previous literature.