

Damián Vergara

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Michigan Postdoctoral Research Associate, Industrial Relations Section, Princeton University	2024- 2023-2024
AFFILIATIONS	Faculty Research Fellow, NBER (Public Economics) Research Affiliate, IZA Institute of Labor Economics	2025- 2023-
EDUCATION	Ph.D. in Economics, UC Berkeley M.A. in Economics, Universidad de Chile B.A. in Business and Economics, Universidad de Chile	2023 2016 2013
TEACHING	At the University of Michigan: Public Economics (Graduate, Fall 2024, Winter 2026), Public Economics (Undergraduate, Winter 2025, Winter 2026)	
REFEREED PUBLICATIONS	Place-Based Redistribution with C. Gaubert, P. Kline, and D. Yagan, <i>American Economic Review</i> , vol. 115(10), 3415-3450, 2025 Workplace Litigiousness and Labor Market Outcomes: Evidence from a Workers' Compensation Reform with M. Lauletta, <i>Journal of Law and Economics</i> , vol. 69(4), 933-956, 2025 Do Policies and Institutions Matter for Pre-Tax Income Inequality? Cross-Country Evidence <i>International Tax and Public Finance</i> , vol. 29(1), 20-52, 2022 Combining Discrimination Diagnostics to Identify Sources of Statistical Discrimination with P. Domínguez and N. Grau, <i>Economics Letters</i> , vol. 212, 110294, 2022 Ambiguity and Long-Run Cooperation in Strategic Games with M. Rojas, <i>Oxford Economic Papers</i> , vol. 73(3), 1077-1098, 2021 Using Small Businesses for Individual Tax Planning: Evidence from Special Tax Regimes in Chile with C. Agostini, E. Engel, and A. Repetto, <i>International Tax and Public Finance</i> , vol. 25(6), 1449-1489, 2018	
WORKING PAPERS	A Sufficient Statistics Approach to Optimal Corporate Taxes with D. Swonder Minimum Wages and Optimal Redistribution: The Role of Firm Profits Minimum Wages and the Distribution of Firm Wage Premia with M. Bergolo, R. Ceni, and M. Fondo Directed Search, Pay, and Non-Wage Amenities: Evidence from an Online Job Board with V. Escudero and H. Liepmann Optimal Tax Information with Privacy Concerns with J. Slemrod An Observational Implementation of the Outcome Test with an Application to Ethnic Prejudice in Pretrial Detentions with N. Grau, R&R at <i>Journal of the European Economic Association</i> Discrimination Against Immigrants in the Criminal Justice System: Evidence from Pretrial Detentions with P. Domínguez and N. Grau	
SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS	Equality of Opportunity vs Equality of Outcomes: A Theory of Optimal Predistribution with R. Chetty, H. Kleven, and D. Yagan	

NON-REFEREED
PUBLICATIONS

A Simple Model of Corporate Tax Incidence
with D. Swonder, AEA Papers and Proceedings 114, 352-357, 2024

Trends in US Spatial Inequality: Concentrating Affluence and a Democratization of Poverty
with C. Gaubert, P. Kline, and D. Yagan, AEA Papers and Proceedings, vol. 111, 520-525, 2021

PRE-DOCTORAL
RESEARCH AND
POLICY PAPERS

Diagnóstico Distributivo de Ingreso y Patrimonio, y Análisis de la Propuesta de Reforma Tributaria en Materia de Renta y Riqueza (in Spanish)
with N. Bohme, I. Flores, P. Gutiérrez, R. Smith, and P. Valenzuela, Ministry of Finance Report, Chile, 2022

Natural Resources and Educational Attainment: Evidence from Chile
with R. Álvarez, Resources Policy, vol. 76, 102573, 2022

Análisis de la Implementación de las Nuevas Reglas de Financiamiento a la Política y Campañas Electorales (in Spanish, with E. Engel, M. Jaraquemada, and N. Campos). Informe de Políticas Públicas, Espacio Público, 2018

Principios para una Reforma al Sistema de Pensiones (in Spanish)
with E. Engel, E. Fajnzylber, P. Fernández, S. Gray, and A. Repetto, Informe de Políticas Públicas, Espacio Público, 2017

Sistema de Pensiones: Opiniones y Demandas Ciudadanas (in Spanish)
Documento de Referencia, Espacio Público, 2017

BOOK CHAPTERS

Cómo Diseñar Impuestos: Teoría Económica y Evidencia Empírica (in Spanish)
In Impuestos Justos para el Chile que Viene, edited by J. Atria and C. Otero, FCE, Chile

AWARDS, HONORS,
AND FELLOWSHIPS

2025 Fondo de Evaluación de Impacto, Grant, DIPRES, Gobierno de Chile
2022 O-Lab Initiative on Racial Equity in the Labor Market, Fellowship, UC Berkeley
2021-2022 Law, Economics, and Politics Center (LEAP), Fellowship, UC Berkeley
2021 Center of Equitable Growth (CEG), Fellowship, UC Berkeley
2021 Strandberg Fund for Gender Equity in Economics, Grant, UC Berkeley
2020 Burch Center, Fellowship, UC Berkeley
2019 Institute of International Studies (IIS), Grant, UC Berkeley
2017 Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings in Economic Sciences (selected participant), Lindau, Germany
2016 Best Student of Class, M.A. in Economics, Universidad de Chile
2015 Chilean Engineers Association Award to the best undergraduate students
2014-2015 Scientific Chilean Council (CONICYT), Fellowship for Master Studies, Chile
2014 Top 1 % of Class, B.A. in Economics, Universidad de Chile

SEMINARS AND
CONFERENCES
(SCHEDULED *)

2026 ASU Empirical Microeconomics Conference*, UCSD*
2025 University of Michigan, PUC Chile, IMD Days (Warsaw), NBER Economic Analysis of Business Taxation Fall Meeting, Bocconi Workshop on Labor Markets and Public Policy, CMU (Tepper), NTA 118th Annual Conference, UCL
2024 ASSA Annual Meetings, Columbia Junior Micro-Macro Labor Conference, Princeton University, APEX Workshop (Australian National University), 7th Junior Applied Micro Conference (EIEF), Princeton Global Minimum Wages Conference, University of Michigan, 3rd M-NEW Annual Workshop (PUC Chile), Universidad de Chile
2023 Bocconi University, OECD (CFE and ELS/JAI), Yale University, Princeton University, University of Chicago (Booth and Harris), Northwestern University, University of Michigan, UCLA, LEAP Conference (Berkeley), IIPF Annual Congress, GRAPE-IMD Seminar, Brookings Economic Studies, Universidad de Chile
2022 Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, UC Berkeley, Universidad de la República de Uruguay, OPFS Workshop for Graduate Students, O-Lab Workshop for Graduate Students, LMF Job Market Workshop
2021 UC Berkeley, LACEA Workshop on the Economics of Crime, RIDGE Workshop on Public Economics, NTA 114th Annual Conference
2020 UC Berkeley, Universidad de Chile
2017 NTA 110th Annual Conference
2016 16th SAET Conference, Universidad de Chile, Chilean Economists Association (SECHI) Annual Meetings, LACEA-LAMES Annual Meetings

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES	Referee at: American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Applied Economic Letters, Econometrica, Economic Journal, ILR Review, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Economic Inequality, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Money Credit and Banking, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Regional Science, Journal of Urban Economics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Structural Change and Economic Dynamics	
	Coorganizer of: North-East Labor Symposium NELS (2024, Princeton)	
	Scientific committee of: National Tax Association Annual Conference (2025)	
OTHER PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	Tax Policy Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Chile Research Assistant, Department of Economics, UC Berkeley Researcher, Espacio Pùblico, Santiago, Chile Research Assistant, Department of Economics, Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile Research Assistant, Chilean Antitrust Agency, Santiago, Chile Research Assistant, ECLAC, Economic Development Department, Santiago, Chile	2022 2018-2020 2016-2017 2012-2016 2012-2013 2010-2011
OTHER	Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent) Citizenship: Chilean	

Last update: December 2025