

Damián Vergara

CONTACT INFORMATION

✉ damiv@umich.edu
🌐 www.damianvergara.com

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 University of Michigan: Public Economics (Graduate, ECON 683, Fall 2024), Government Revenues (Undergraduate, ECON 482, Winter 2025)

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

[Place-Based Redistribution](#)
with C. Gaubert, P. Kline, and D. Yagan, [American Economic Review](#), Accepted

[Workplace Litigiousness and Labor Market Outcomes: Evidence from a Workers' Compensation Reform](#)
with M. Lauletta, [Journal of Law and Economics](#), Accepted

[Do Policies and Institutions Matter for Pre-Tax Income Inequality? Cross-Country Evidence](#)
[International Tax and Public Finance](#), vol. 29(1), 20-52, 2022

[Combining Discrimination Diagnostics to Identify Sources of Statistical Discrimination](#)
with P. Domínguez and N. Grau, [Economics Letters](#), vol. 212, 110294, 2022

[Ambiguity and Long-Run Cooperation in Strategic Games](#)
with M. Rojas, [Oxford Economic Papers](#), 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, [International Tax and Public Finance](#), vol. 25(6), 1449-1489, 2018

WORKING PAPERS

[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 [Journal of the European Economic Association](#)

[Discrimination Against Immigrants in the Criminal Justice System: Evidence from Pretrial Detentions](#)
with P. Domínguez and N. Grau

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

A Sufficient Statistics Approach to Optimal Corporate Taxes
with D. Swonder

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

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 *)

2025 University of Michigan, PUC Chile, IMD Days*
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 (Harris), Northwestern University, University of Chicago (Booth), 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 (x3), Universidad de la República de Uruguay, OPFS Workshop for Graduate Students, O-Lab Workshop for Graduate Students, LMF Job Market Workshop
2021 UC Berkeley (x3), LACEA Workshop on the Economics of Crime, RIDGE Workshop on Public Economics, NTA 114th Annual Conference on Taxation
2020 UC Berkeley, Universidad de Chile
2017 NTA 110th Annual Conference on Taxation
2016 16th SAET Conference, Universidad de Chile, Chilean Economists Association (SECHI) Annual Meetings, LACEA-LAMES Annual Meetings

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES	<p>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</p> <p>Coorganizer of: North-East Labor Symposium NELS (2024, Princeton)</p> <p>Scientific committee of: National Tax Association Annual Conference (2025)</p>	
OTHER PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	<p>Tax Policy Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Chile</p> <p>Research Assistant, Department of Economics, UC Berkeley</p> <p>Researcher, Espacio Público, Santiago, Chile</p> <p>Research Assistant, Department of Economics, Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile</p> <p>Research Assistant, Chilean Antitrust Agency, Santiago, Chile</p> <p>Research Assistant, ECLAC, Economic Development Department, Santiago, Chile</p>	<p>2022</p> <p>2018-2020</p> <p>2016-2017</p> <p>2012-2016</p> <p>2012-2013</p> <p>2010-2011</p>
OTHER	<p>Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent)</p> <p>Citizenship: Chilean</p>	