

Placement Directors:	Professor Robert Porter and	847-491-3491	r-porter@northwestern.edu
	Professor Benjamin Golub	847-491-8230	bgolub@northwestern.edu
Placement Administrator:	Lola Ittner	847-491-5213	econjobmarket@northwestern.edu

Contact Information

Department of Economics
Northwestern University
2211 Campus Drive
Evanston, IL 60208

Mobile: 475-731-1065
ejaramillo@u.northwestern.edu
www.sites.northwestern.edu/ejaramillo
Citizenship: Colombia, France

Fields

Research Interests: Development Economics, Economics of Crime, Labor Economics, Public Economics

Education

Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University	(expected) 2026
Committee: Christopher Udry (Co-Chair), Lori Beaman (Co-Chair), Elisa Jacome	
M.A., Economics, Northwestern University	2021
M.Sc., Econometrics and Mathematical Economics, Tilburg University	2017
M.A., Economics, Universidad de Los Andes	2016
B.Sc., Industrial Engineering, Universidad de Los Andes	2016
B.A., Economics, Universidad de Los Andes	2015

Job Market Paper

Beyond Recipients: Sibling Spillovers of College Financial Aid

with Fabio Sánchez-Torres

This paper studies how expanding access to higher education affects other members of the household. We study sibling spillover effects of *Ser Pilo Paga* (SPP), a college financial aid program introduced in Colombia in 2014 that offered full scholarships to high-achieving students from low-income families. Using administrative data that link siblings over time and exploiting the program's eligibility thresholds, we estimate how younger siblings' educational, labor-market, and behavioral outcomes respond when an older sibling qualifies for financial aid. Younger siblings of eligible students score 0.11 standard deviations higher on the national high-school exit exam and are 14 percent more likely to enroll in higher education, with enrollment shifting toward high-quality universities. In the short run, their formal employment increases by about 3 percentage points, and criminal convictions decline by roughly 60 percent. Smaller improvements are also observed among younger siblings of students who narrowly miss eligibility, suggesting that exposure to the program—even without direct aid—affects family expectations and decisions. Heterogeneity analyses show similar effects across socioeconomic groups, parental education levels, and family structures, indicating that the results are unlikely to be driven by liquidity or income relief. Because the program primarily expands the extensive margin of college participation—moving older siblings from not attending to attending, often in another city—the evidence is most consistent with intangible mechanisms: higher motivation, aspirations, and perceived returns to education.

*Presented at the XIX Research Institute for Development, Growth and Economics Forum, Northwestern Development Economics Seminar and School of Education and Social Policy.
Supported by a Research Grant from Northwestern University Global Poverty Research Lab.*

Working Papers

Drug Eradication, Agriculture, and the Formal Economy: Spillovers from Coca Fumigation

There is a large proliferation of illegal activities in most countries, which likely has deep economic implications. This paper evaluates the interaction between illegal activities and the formal economy. To do this, I take advantage of one of the largest anti-drug actions in a drug producing country: Colombia's Drug Eradication Program (DEP). The program began in

1994, but in 1999, it saw a significant escalation when aerial spraying of industrial coca crops became the cornerstone of Plan Colombia. My analysis yields three main results. First, I find that coca cultivation decreases by 63 percent in commercial plantations. Second, I show the presence of spillover effects resulting from the DEP. I use a difference-in-differences design leveraging time variation (before and after the start of Plan Colombia in 1999) and spatial variation by comparing municipalities suitable for coca cultivation with less suitable ones. Compared to the control group, suitable areas (outside of commercial plantations) saw an average increase of 21 hectares of coca cultivation per 1,000 hectares of agricultural land. Third, I then ask how anti-drug actions in key coca hubs leads to an increase in coca in other suitable municipalities. I find that one of the mechanisms behind this shift is consistent with internal migration. I also show that when demand for illicit crops increases, tax revenue from commerce and industry decreases by 10.2 percent.

The Effect of Maternity Leave Policies on Local Labor Market Outcomes *with Karla Hernández*

We investigate the impact of gender on labor market informality in Brazil, specifically examining firms' contract offerings and the gender wage gap. We employ an event study that leverages labor inspections and maternity leave extensions, alongside a structural model, to analyze how firms adjust their hiring practices in anticipation of the costs associated with hiring women. Our study addresses critical questions regarding the determinants of contract offerings, the role of these contracts in contributing to the wage gap, and the strategic use of informal contracts. Our findings reveal significant gender-specific responses from firms following audits, indicating notable differences in hiring and contracting strategies. Furthermore, we plan to explore how the types of contracts offered to women influence the persistent wage gap. By developing a theoretical framework that incorporates worker-side factors influencing contract acceptance, we will enhance our understanding of the dynamics within the informal labor market.

Work in Progress

Expanding College Access and the Opportunity Costs of Criminal Engagement

with Nathalie Basto and Erynn Norza

Unpacking School Value Added: Education Quality, Spending, and Crime in Chile

with Gregory Elacqua and Isabela Munevar

Preventing School Dropout through a Teacher Chatbot

with Gregory Elacqua, Raquel Fernandez, Ana Teresa del Toro

Work Experience

Inter-American Development Bank, Education Division
Economist – AI & Economics Consultant

Aug 2025 - *present*

Global Poverty Research Lab, Northwestern University
Graduate Research Assistant, Professor Chris Udry

January 2023 - December 2023

Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University
Graduate Research Assistant, Professor Erika Deserranno

April 2022 - June 2023

Inter-American Development Bank, Research Department
Research Fellow

July 2017 - July 2019

Universidad de Los Andes, Center for Economic Development Studies
Research Assistant

Jan 2014 - July 2016

Programming

Stata, Python, SQL, QGIS, R

Fellowships & Awards

Dissertation Fellowship, Northwestern University

2025-2026

Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award, Northwestern University

2024, 2025

Graduate Research Grant, Global Poverty Research Lab (\$5,000)

2024

Graduate Research Grant, Northwestern University (\$3,000)

2023

Northwestern University Graduate Fellowship

2020-2021

Teaching Experience	Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University	
	Economics of Gender (Winter 2025, Winter 2024, Fall 2024), Labor Economics (Spring 2024, Fall 2022), Introduction to Microeconomics (Winter 2023, Spring, Winter 2022, Fall 2021)	
	Teaching Assistant, Universidad de Los Andes	
	Intermediate Econometrics	January 2014 - December 2014
Conferences	XIX Research Institute for Development, Growth and Economics (RIDGE) Forum Chile, 2024	
Professional Activities	CEGA Fellowship Program PhD Partner	January 2024 - June 2024
	Applied Microeconomics Seminar Organizer, Northwestern University	2022-2023
	Northwestern Graduate Mentorship Program Mentor	2022-2023
Languages	English (fluent), French (fluent), Spanish (native)	
References	Professor Christopher Udry	Professor Lori Beaman
	Department of Economics Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 847.491.8216 christopher.udry@northwestern.edu	Department of Economics Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 847.491.5394 l-beaman@northwestern.edu
	Professor Elisa Jacome	
	Department of Economics Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 847.491.2531 ejacome@northwestern.edu	