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Citizenship: Colombia, France

**Fields**

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

**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 and Juan Bedoya*

This paper studies sibling spillovers from a large-scale college financial aid program in Colombia. In 2014, the government launched Ser Pilo Paga ("Hard Work Pays Off"), a merit- and need-based scholarship targeting high-achieving students from low-income households. Eligibility was determined jointly by household poverty status and performance on the national high school exit exam. I use these criteria as a source of quasi-random variation to estimate effects on younger siblings' outcomes. When an older sibling qualifies, younger siblings' exam scores rise by 0.11 standard deviations (26 percent), their probability of immediate college enrollment increases by 14 percent, and enrollment shifts toward high-quality, mostly private, universities. Labor outcomes follow a U-shape: employment falls in the first four years as college attendance rises but is 3.2 percentage points higher by year six. We also find large social returns: the probability of a criminal conviction among younger siblings falls by 63 percent, with effects concentrated in the poorest households. Younger siblings of students who were close to receiving the scholarship also show modest gains, consistent with increased motivation and with reallocation effects, as eligible students shift toward private universities and free up scarce seats in competitive public institutions. Overall, the results show that financial aid programs can generate sizable within-family spillovers, extending beyond education to labor markets and crime.

*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.

<b>Work in Progress</b>	<b>Expanding College Access and the Opportunity Costs of Criminal Engagement</b> <i>with Nathalie Basto and Erynn Norza</i>	
	<b>Enhancing Teacher Effectiveness and Student Outcomes through Cognitive Behavioral Therapy: A Randomized Controlled Trial in Ghana's Public Schools</b> <i>with Dean Karlan, Angela Ofori-Atta, Mansa Saxena, Alvis Tang, and Christopher Udry</i>	
<b>Work Experience</b>	<b>Inter-American Development Bank, Education Division</b> Economist – AI & Education Consultant	Aug 2025 – present
	<b>Global Poverty Research Lab, Northwestern University</b> Graduate Research Assistant, Professor Chris Udry	January 2023 – December 2023
	<b>Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University</b> Graduate Research Assistant, Professor Erika Deserranno	April 2022 – June 2023
	<b>Inter-American Development Bank, Research Department</b> Research Fellow	July 2017 – July 2019
	<b>Universidad de Los Andes, Center for Economic Development Studies</b> Research Assistant	Jan 2014 – July 2016
<b>Programming</b>	Stata, Python, SQL, QGIS, R	
<b>Fellowships &amp; Awards</b>	Dissertation Fellowship, Northwestern University	2025–2026
	Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award, Northwestern University	2024
	Graduate Research Grant, Global Poverty Research Lab (\$5,000)	2024
	Graduate Research Grant, Northwestern University (\$3,000)	2023
	Northwestern University Graduate Fellowship	2020–2021
<b>Teaching Experience</b>	Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University <b>Economics of Gender</b> (Winter 2025, Winter 2024, Fall 2024), <b>Labor Economics</b> (Spring 2024, Fall 2022), <b>Introduction to Microeconomics</b> (Winter 2023, Spring, Winter 2022, Fall 2021)	
	Teaching Assistant, Universidad de Los Andes <b>Intermediate Econometrics</b>	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
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