

FELIPE PARRA ESCOBAR

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Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison

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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Ph.D., Agricultural and Applied Economics

Expected, May 2025

Committee: Laura Schechter (Chair), Priya Mukherjee, Paul Castañeda Dower

Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia)

M.A., Economics

2016

Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia)

B.A., Economics

2014

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary: Development Economics, Economics of Conflict, Applied Microeconomics

Secondary: Industrial Organization, Experimental Economics

WORKING PAPERS

Watch Your Step: The Economic and Behavioral Responses of Rural Households to Landmines During Conflict

(Job Market Paper)

with Sakina Shibuya

Abstract: Antipersonnel landmines, though intended to target combatants, disproportionately impact civilians, disrupting economic activity and altering household decision-making processes. This paper examines how landmine-related events affect rural households' livelihoods, shortly after these incidents occur. Using detailed spatial data on both landmine events and household locations, we identify incidents occurring near households' residences. Our findings show that households reduce risky activities, such as agricultural labor and healthcare-seeking, following recent landmine events. Individuals exposed to landmines near their residence and shortly before the planting season are 16% less likely to work in long-term agricultural jobs on other households' farms and 12% less likely to work on their own fields. These households are also more likely to hire external workers, likely substituting their own labor. Furthermore, exposed adults are less inclined to seek formal medical care for preventative reasons. However, these behavioral adjustments are conditioned by households liquidity constraints. Wealthier households reduce agricultural labor, whereas liquidity-constrained households engage in agricultural day labor following landmine exposure, likely to compensate for income losses from reduced work in other agricultural jobs and non-agricultural occupations. This study sheds light on the unequal risk-bearing capacities of rural households in conflict zones.

When Protection Fails: Effects of Military Bases on Sexual Violence in Colombia

with Sakina Shibuya

Abstract: Sexual violence committed by state soldiers are ubiquitous across the world. This paper investigates the impact of military base presence on sexual violence, fertility, and child support disputes in Colombia, a nation with a recent experience of large-scale growth in military base presence. Using a novel dataset constructed from diverse sources, we track military base locations across Colombian municipalities from 1998 to 2016. Employing an event-study approach, we identify the causal effects of military bases on host communities. Our findings reveal that the presence of military bases significantly increases sexual violence, with a 72% rise in registered cases over the course of 14 years after the introduction of military base. Despite this increase in sexual violence, we find no significant changes in population or security conditions. While the data do not allow us to directly assess the role of non-state armed actors, existing reports indicate

potential collaboration between military and paramilitary groups, which could contribute to the observed rise in sexual violence. This study advances the literature on conflict-related sexual violence and the broader consequences of military base presence on local populations.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Competition and Product Quality: Experimental Evidence from Kenya
with Joshua Deutschmann, Jeremy Foltz, Timothy Njagi, and Emilia Tjernström

Boosting Demand in Markets for Experience Goods: Experimental Evidence on a Quality-Conscious Seller's Entry in Kenya
with Joshua Deutschmann and Emilia Tjernström

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Articles

- Business Cycle and Employment Market in Colombia: 1984-2014. With Luis E. Arango and Álvaro J. Pinzón-Giraldo. *Ensayos sobre Política Económica*, 2016, 34(81): 206-228.

Books and Chapters in Books

- Colombia en movimiento: tierra, desarrollo rural y desigualdades. With Rachid Laajaj. In Colombia en movimiento 2010-2013-2016. Castaño, L.M. (ed.) Universidad de los Andes, 2017.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Professor Jeremy Foltz and Professor Emilia Tjernström University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics	2022-2024
Research Assistant to Professor Laura Schechter and Professor Emilia Tjernström University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics	2020-2022
Research Assistant to Professor Rachid Laajaj and Professor Karen Macours Universidad de los Andes, Department of Economics	2015 - 2018
Research Assistant to Professor Jorge Bonilla and Professor Fernando Carriazo Universidad de los Andes, Department of Economics	2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Introduction to Agricultural and Applied Economics, Teaching Assistant
Taught by Professor Tessa Conroy Fall 2022

Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia)

Principles of Microeconomics, Teaching Assistant
Taught by Professors Andrés Moya, David Bardey, Diego Amador, and José A. Guerra 2016-2019

Game Theory (Undergraduate), Teaching Assistant
Taught by Professor Oskar Nupia Spring 2019

Labor Economics (Undergraduate), Teaching Assistant
Taught by Dr. Luis Eduardo Arango Spring 2014

ACADEMIC RESEARCH GRANTS AND FUNDING

2023 Research Award, Agricultural and Applied Economics, UW-Madison (USD 1,000)
2023 Research Travel Award, Agricultural and Applied Economics, UW-Madison (USD 400)
2023 Graduate School Student Research Travel Grant Competition for Conference Travels, UW-Madison (USD 600)

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Graduate School Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2019-2020, 2024-2025
AAE Outstanding Teaching Assistant Prize, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2022-2023

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

* indicates upcoming

2024 LACEA-LAMES Annual Meetings*, APPAM Fall Research Conference*, SEA Annual Meeting*

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee Service

Swiss Journal of Economics and Statistics

Department Service

Graduate Committee Student Representative, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2023-2024
Student Research Colloquium Coordinator, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2022-2023

SKILLS

Languages	Spanish (Native), English (Fluent)
Software	Stata, R, QGIS, SurveyCTO, Matlab, L ^A T _E X

REFERENCES

Laura Schechter

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Department of Economics
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Priya Mukherjee

Assistant Professor
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Emilia Tjernström

Senior Research Fellow
Centre for Development Economics and Sustainability
Monash University
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