

FELIPE PARRA-ESCOBAR

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EMPLOYMENT

Brown University

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Watson School of International and Public Affairs

2025-Present

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Ph.D., Agricultural and Applied Economics

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

WORKING PAPERS

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.

WATCH YOUR STEP: THE ECONOMIC AND BEHAVIORAL RESPONSES OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS TO LANDMINES DURING CONFLICT

with Sakina Shibuya

Abstract: Antipersonnel landmines instill fear in people living in contaminated areas, disrupting economic activity and altering household decision-making. This paper examines how recent landmine-related events affect rural households' livelihoods. Using administrative records of landmine events combined with spatial household data from the Colombian Longitudinal Survey, we identify incidents near households' residences and employ a fixed effects model to estimate their impact. Our findings indicate that households reduce risky activities, such as agricultural labor and healthcare-seeking, following recent landmine events. Specifically, individuals are 16% less likely to work in long-term agricultural jobs and 12% less likely to work on their own fields if a nearby landmine event occurred shortly before the planting season. These households are also more likely to hire external agricultural workers, likely substituting for their own labor. Furthermore, exposed adults are less inclined to seek formal preventative healthcare. However, responses differ by liquidity constraints: while wealthier households reduce agricultural labor, liquidity-constrained households turn to agricultural day labor to offset income losses from reduced work in other agricultural and non-agricultural occupations. This study sheds light on the unequal risk-bearing capacities of rural households in conflict zones.

BOOSTING ADOPTION OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS: LAB-IN-THE-FIELD EVIDENCE FROM THE ENTRY OF A HIGH-QUALITY SELLER

with *Joshua Deutschmann and Emilia Tjernström*

Abstract: Adoption of agricultural inputs may be low when farmers perceive a low probability of obtaining high-quality inputs in local markets. This study examines whether the entry of a high-quality seller can stimulate demand for such inputs. We test this using a lab-in-the-field experiment with maize farmers in rural Kenya. In the experiment, participants repeatedly choose between an uncertain quantity of hybrid maize seeds and a fixed quantity of an unrelated alternative good. To simulate the entry of a high-quality seller, we offer a second seed option with a higher expected quantity of seeds to a random subset of participants. We find that the entry of a high-quality seller increases the likelihood of choosing seeds by 14%, suggesting that farmers who previously avoided the input due to quality uncertainty become more willing to adopt it when a higher-quality option becomes available. This effect is stronger among participants who have observed or expect to receive low-quality products from incumbent sellers. These results highlight the importance of improving farmers' perceptions of input quality to increase adoption.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Competition and Product Quality: Experimental Evidence from Kenya

with *Joshua Deutschmann, Jeremy Foltz, Timothy Njagi, and Emilia Tjernström*

Using Local Soldiers to Provide Security amid Civil Conflicts: Evidence from *Soldados de mi pueblo*

with *Robert Blair, Gabriela Ramírez, and Michael Weintraub*

Anti-Climate Mayors and Violence Towards Environmental Leaders in the Brazilian Amazon

with *Robert Blair, Mariana Carvalho, and Débora Duque*

Demining and Agricultural Investment Decisions: Evidence from Coffee Farmers in Colombia

with *Sakina Shibuya*

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

Fall 2022

Taught by Professor Tessa Conroy

Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia)

Principles of Microeconomics, Teaching Assistant

2016-2019

Taught by Professors Andrés Moya, David Bardey, Diego Amador, and José A. Guerra

Game Theory (Undergraduate), Teaching Assistant

Spring 2019

Taught by Professor Oskar Nupia

Labor Economics (Undergraduate), Teaching Assistant

Spring 2014

Taught by Dr. Luis Eduardo Arango

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

2025 Universidad de los Andes School of Management, West Point Social Sciences Seminar, Universidad del Pacífico, AAEA Annual Meetings

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

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^AT_EX

REFERENCES

Laura Schechter

Professor

Department of Economics
University of Wisconsin-Madison
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Robert Blair

Associate Professor

Department of Political Science
Brown University
robert.blair@brown.edu

Emilia Tjernström

Associate Professor

Department of Economics
Macquarie University
emilia.tjernstrom@mq.edu.au