

Fernando Rios-Avila

Contact Information

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Summary

PhD economist with over a decade of research experience at the Levy Economics Institute, specializing in labor economics, applied econometrics, and applied microeconomics. Expertise in poverty and inequality analysis, data-driven policy evaluation, econometric modeling, with experience teaching graduate-level courses. Key contributor to the Levy Institute Measure of Income and Wealth (LIMEW) and the Levy Institute Measure of Time and Income Poverty (LIMTIP).

Research Interests

- Applied Econometrics: Causal inference, decomposition methods, non-parametric methods
- Applied Microeconomics: Policy evaluation, consumer behavior
- Labor Economics: Wage dynamics, union impacts, labor market institutions
- Poverty and Inequality: Measurement techniques, intersectionality

Education

PhD in Economics | Georgia State University | 2008-2013 Dissertation: “Essays on Unions, Wages, and Performance: Evidence from Latin America”

Advanced Studies (M.Sc) International Economics | Kiel University - Germany | 2007-2008

Licenciatura en Economia (5 yr program, BS equivalent) | Universidad Católica Boliviana | 2000-2004

Professional Experience

Research Scholar | Levy Economics Institute of Bard College | August 2013 – Present

- Worked on research projects on labor market dynamics, inequality, and time and income poverty
- Developed and applied econometric models for the analysis of time use and consumption data.
- Maintained and updated the Levy Institute Measure of Income and Wealth (LIMEW) and the Levy Institute Measure of Time and Income Poverty (LIMTIP)
- Primary instructor for econometric courses at the Levy Institute’s Master of Science in Economic Theory and Policy program.

Consultant | World Bank | 2022 - Present

- Conducted analysis in labor and development economics topics in Latin America.
- Developed and applied econometric models for analysis of income and consumption data.

Research Assistant | Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta | August 2010 – June 2013

Graduate Research Assistant | Georgia State University | August 2008 – December 2013

Consultant (UNICEF Project) | Economic and Social Policy Analysis Unit (UDAPE) | July 2005 – June 2007

Internship | Superintendence of Hydrocarbon, Financial and Economic Analysis-Department | January 2004 – July 2004

Teaching Experience

Levy Economics Institute

- Econometrics of Poverty, Inequality and Social Science Research | 2015- 2021
- Research Methods I: Econometrics | 2018- Present
- Applied Econometric Methods for Empirical Research & Policy Evaluation | 2023 - Present
- Research Methods II: Applied Methods in Microeconomics (Shared Course) | 2024- Present
- Intersecting Inequalities (Shared Course): Labor Market Institutions | 2018
- Intersecting Inequalities (Shared Course): Decompositions Methods in Economics | 2017

Publications

Refereed Publications

1. Canavire-Bacarreza, G. J., Gomez-Aliaga, Guillermo., Britton, chevanne, Rios-Avila, F., Jimenez-Pozo, W., Granados Ibarra, S., & Li, R. (2024). Fiscal incidence on the island: Grenada's fiscal system and its incidence. *Social and Economic Studies*.
2. Hotchkiss, J. L., Moore, R. E., & Rios-Avila, F. (2024). Impact of the 2017 tax cuts and jobs act on household labor supply and welfare across the income distribution. *National Tax Journal*, 77(2), 313–348.
3. Mundra, K., & Rios-Avila, F. (2024). Education-occupation mismatch and social networks for hispanics in the u.s.: Role of citizenship. *Education Economics*, 23(2), 185–209.
4. Rios-Avila, F., Canavire-Bacarreza, G. J., & Sacco-Capurro, F. (2024). Recovering income distribution in the presence of interval-censored data. *Journal of Economic Inequality*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10888-023-09617-2>
5. Jenkins, S. P., & Rios-Avila, F. (2023). Finite mixture model for linked survey and administrative data: Estimation and post estimation. *The Stata Journal*, 23(1), 53–85.

6. Jenkins, S. P., & Rios-Avila, F. (2023). Reconciling reports: Modeling employment earnings and measurement errors using linked survey and administrative data. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series A: Statistics in Society*, 186(1), 110–136. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jrssa/qnac003>
7. Rios-Avila, F., & Maroto, M. L. (2022). Moving beyond linear regression: Implementing and interpreting quantile regression models with fixed effects. *Sociological Methods and Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0049124121103616>
8. Jenkins, S. P., & Rios-Avila, F. (2021). Measurement error in earnings data: Replication of meijer, rohwedder, and wansbeek’s mixture model approach to combining survey and register data. *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, 1–10.
9. Morrar, R., & Rios-Avila, F. (2021). Discrimination against refugees in the palestinian labor market. *International Journal of Manpower*, 42(2), 1002–1024.
10. Mundra, K., & Rios-Avila, F. (2021). Using repeated cross-sectional data to examine the role of immigrant birth-country networks on unemployment duration: An application of guell and hu (2006) approach. *Empirical Economics*, 61, 389–415.
11. Rios-Avila, F. (2021). Estimation of marginal effects for models with alternative variable transformations. *The Stata Journal*, 21(1), 81–96.
12. Canavire-Bacarreza, G. J., Chong, A., Rios-Avila, F., & Yanez-Pagans, M. (2020). Will elders provide for their grandchildren? Unconditional cash transfers and educational expenditures in bolivia. *Review of Development Economics*, 24(2), 424–447.
13. Hotchkiss, J. L., Moore, R. E., & Rios-Avila, F. (2020). Cost of policy choices: A microsimulation analysis of the impact on family welfare of unemployment and price changes. *Journal of Macroeconomics*, 63, 103167.
14. Jenkins, S. P., & Rios-Avila, F. (2020). Modelling errors in survey and administrative data on employment earnings: Sensitivity to the fraction assumed to have error-free earnings. *Economics Letters*, 192, 109253.
15. Rios-Avila, F. (2020). Recentered influence functions (RIF) in stata: RIF regression and RIF decomposition. *Stata Journal*, 20(1), 51–94.
16. Rios-Avila, F. (2020). Smooth varying coefficient models in stata. *The Stata Journal*, 20(3), 647–679.
17. Rios-Avila, F., & Canavire-Bacarreza, G. J. (2020). The effect of immigration on labor market transitions of native-born unemployed in the united states. *Journal of Labor Research*, 41, 295–331.
18. Masterson, T., Rios-Avila, F., Zacharias, A., & Wolf, E. N. (2019). The great recession and racial inequality: Evidence from measures of economic well-being. *Journal of Economic Issues*, 53(4), 1048–1069.
19. Rios-Avila, F. (2019). A semi-parametric approach to the oaxaca–blinder decomposition with continuous group variable and self-selection. *Econometrics*, 7(2), 28.
20. Rios-Avila, F., & Canavire-Bacarreza, G. J. (2018). Standard error correction in two-stage optimization models: A quasi-maximum likelihood estimation approach. *The Stata Journal*, 18(1), 206–222.
21. Canavire-Bacarreza, G. J., & Rios-Avila, F. (2017). On the determinants of wage inequality changes in urban bolivia. *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, 18(4), 464–496.
22. Hotchkiss, J. L., Moore, R. E., Rios-Avila, F., & Trussel, M. (2017). A tale of two

- decades: Relative intra-family earning capacity and changes in family welfare over time. *Review of Economics of the Household*, 15(3), 707–737.
23. Rioja, F. K., Rios-Avila, F., & Valev, N. T. (2017). Productivity during recessions with banking crises: Inter-industry evidence. *Economics Letters*, 152, 50–53.
 24. Rios-Avila, F. (2017). Unions and economic performance in developing countries: Case studies from latin america. *Ecos de Economia: A Latin American Journal of Applied Economics*, 21(44), 4–36.
 25. Saravia, A., Canavire-Bacarreza, G. J., & Rios-Avila, F. (2017). Intellectual property rights, foreign direct investment and economic freedom. *Global Economy Journal*, 23(2), 20170017.
 26. Canavire-Bacarreza, G. J., & Rios-Avila, F. (2016). The effect of intimate partner violence on labor market decisions: Evidence from a multi-ethnic country. *International Journal of Social Economics*, 44(1), 75–92.
 27. Aristizabal-Ramirez, M., Canavire-Bacarreza, G. J., & Rios-Avila, F. (2015). Revisiting the effects of innovation on growth: A threshold analysis. *Applied Economics Letters*, 22(18), 1474–1479.
 28. Hotchkiss, J. L., Moore, R. E., & Rios-Avila, F. (2015). Reevaluation of the employment impact of the 1996 summer olympic games. *Southern Economic Journal*, 81(3), 619–632.
 29. Hotchkiss, J. L., Quispe-Agnoli, M., & Rios-Avila, F. (2015). The wage impact of undocumented workers: Evidence from administrative data. *Southern Economic Journal*, 81(4), 874–906.
 30. Rios-Avila, F. (2015). Feasible estimation of linear models with n-fixed effects. *Stata Journal*, 15(3), 881–898.
 31. Hotchkiss, J. L., Pitts, M., & Rios-Avila, F. (2014). A search for evidence of skill mismatch in the aftermath of the great recession. *Applied Economics Letters*, 21(9), 587–592.
 32. Rioja, F. K., Rios-Avila, F., & Valev, N. T. (2014). Serial banking crises and capital investment. *Emerging Markets Finance and Trade*, 50(6), 193–208.
 33. Rioja, F. K., Rios-Avila, F., & Valev, N. T. (2014). The persistent effect of banking crises on investment and the role of financial markets. *Journal of Financial Economic Policy*, 6(1), 64–77.
 34. Rios-Avila, F., & Hirsch, B. (2014). Unions, wage gaps, and wage dispersion: New evidence from the americas. *Industrial Relations: A Journal of Economy and Society*, 53(1), 1–27.
 35. Hotchkiss, J. L., & Rios-Avila, F. (2013). Identifying factors behind the decline in the u.s. Labor force participation rate. *Business and Economic Research*, 3(1).
 36. Searing, E. A. M., Rios-Avila, F., & Lecy, J. D. (2013). Mental health and labor market outcomes in bosnia-herzegovina. *Social Science & Medicine*, 96(20), 165–173.
 37. Hotchkiss, J. L., Moore, R. E., & Rios-Avila, F. (2012). Assessing the welfare impact of tax reform: A case study of the 2001 US tax cut. *The Review of Income and Wealth*, 58(2), 233–256.
 38. Mercado-Salazar, A., Leiton, J., & Rios-Avila, F. (2004). Segmentación en el mercado matrimonial. *Revista Latinoamericana de Desarrollo Económico*, 3, 49–76.

Awards and Honors

- Journal of Economic Issues, Editor's Prize, 2019
- The Stata Journal, Editors' Prize, 2023

Thesis Advisor

- María Aristizábal-Ramírez (Undergraduate Thesis)
- Ian Bowen (Master Thesis)
- Alejandra Montoya (Master Thesis)
- Daniella Medina (Master Thesis)
- Rhett Maiorama (Master Thesis)
- Esteban Rivera (Master Thesis)
- Brandon Istenes (Master Thesis)
- Masooma Hassan (Master Thesis)

Languages and Software

Statistical software with programming experience:

- Stata: Advanced proficiency, developed and maintained various user-written programs
- R: Intermediate proficiency, used software for Econometrics classes
- Python: Intermediate proficiency for programming and basic econometric analysis
- Basic knowledge of Julia and SQL

Languages:

- Spanish (Native)
- English (Fluent)