

Isabel Ferraz Musse

Ph.D. in Economics | Research & Evaluation Expert

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Ph.D. economist with expertise in causal inference, economic research, and program evaluation. Skilled in working with clients to solve real-world problems and translate technical analyses into clear recommendations.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mathematica, Chicago— *Researcher* — 2020 - PRESENT

- Conduct high-value impact evaluations using advanced causal inference methods to assess policy interventions across workforce development, disability policy, and healthcare sectors
- Lead cross-disciplinary teams, coordinate with stakeholders, and provide quality assurance for deliverables
- Translate complex data analyses into clear, actionable findings through reports, policy briefs, and technical memos

Recent projects:

- Researcher and task leader, evaluation of programs that support workforce retention for 10,000+ injured workers
 - Collaborate on comprehensive program evaluation, implementing experimental evaluation methods and econometric solutions to survey and administrative data
 - Lead cross-disciplinary team testing methods to develop predictive models to identify individuals most likely to benefit from programs and optimize resource allocation
- Project director, evaluation of pilot demonstration to improve employment outcomes of refugees with health impairments in Northern Virginia
 - Lead evaluation activities to assess and develop a sustainability plan for the pilot
 - Engage program stakeholders to optimize implementation of the pilot during various stages, adapting products to address changing needs and project constraints
- Researcher and task leader, evaluation of a nationwide program to improve employment and financial independence of beneficiaries
 - Oversee the design of survey instrument to be administered to providers nationwide to collect information to complement program and administrative data for the evaluation
 - Develop and implement the evaluation design report, identifying methods and data to generate evidence-based insights to answer the client's questions

The World Bank, Washington D.C.— *Researcher and Field Coordinator, Development Impact Evaluation Unit* — 2013—2014, summer 2015 and 2016

- Led the design and implementation of multi-stakeholder impact evaluations, facilitating partnerships among stakeholders to align methodologies with strategic objectives
- Managed field implementation, including randomization and data collection

Itaú-Unibanco, Brazil — *Economic Research Analyst, Project Evaluation* — 2012 - 2013

- Evaluated impact and cost-benefit of projects using quasi-experimental methods
- Managed primary data collection, analysis, reporting, and presentation of results

EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign — *PhD in Economics* — 2014 - 2020

- Robert W. Harbeson Memorial Dissertation Fellowship (2019)

Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV-EESP) — *M.Phil., Economics* — 2010 - 2012

Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG) — *B.A., Economics* — 2006 - 2009

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Musse, I. (2025). "[Employment shocks and demand for pain medication: Understanding the channels that drive opioid use.](#)" *Health Economics*, 34(2), 316-344.
- Musse, I., Honeycutt, T., & Hemmeter, J. (2024). "[The Effects of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 on Vocational Rehabilitation Engagement, Employment, and Work Incentive Use among Supplemental Security Income Recipients Aged 14-24.](#)" *Soc. Sec. Bull.*, 84, 27.
- Keshaviah, A., et al. (2023). "[Separating Signal from Noise in Wastewater Data: An Algorithm to Identify Community-Level COVID-19 Surges in Real Time.](#)" *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 120(31).
- Musse, I., & Schneider, R. (2023). "[The Effect of Presidential Election Outcomes on Alcohol Drinking.](#)" *Economics & Politics* 35, no. 1: 146-162.
- Musse, I., et al. (2022). "[When Do Women Learn They Are Pregnant? The Introduction of Clinics and Pregnancy Uncertainty in Nepal.](#)" *Studies in Family Planning*, 53(1).
- Piza, C., et al. (2016). "[The Impacts of Business Support Services for Small and Medium Enterprises on Firm Performance in Low-and Middle-Income Countries: A Systematic Review.](#)" *Campbell Systematic Reviews*, 12(1).

SKILLS & PROFICIENCIES

- Advanced causal inference and econometric analysis
- Machine learning and predictive modeling
- Cross-disciplinary team leadership
- Stakeholder engagement
- Technical and accessible reporting
- R, Stata
- Portuguese, Spanish, French, Danish