

# Isabel Musse

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## EDUCATION

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

*Ph.D. in Economics*

2014–present

**Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV-EESP)**

*M.S. in Economics*

2012

**Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais**

*B.S. Economics*

2010

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Health, Development, Applied Econometrics

## WORKING PAPERS

Employment Shocks and Demand for Pain Medication (**Job market paper**)

When do Women Learn They Are Pregnant? The Introduction of Clinics and Pregnancy Uncertainty in Nepal (with Dirgha Ghimire and Rebecca Thornton)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

The Mechanisms Underlying the Decline in Fertility during the Zika Epidemic in Brazil

The Effect of Presidential Election Outcomes on Alcohol Drinking (with Rodrigo Schneider)

## PUBLICATIONS

The Impacts of Business Support Services for Small and Medium Enterprises on Firm Performance in Low-and Middle-Income Countries: a Systematic Review (with Caio Piza and others), 2016, *Campbell Systematic Reviews*

Determinants of access to credit for low-income population in Brazil from 2002 to 2008 (with Claudia Yoshinaga and William Eid Junior), 2011, *Cambridge Conference on Business & Economics Program, Proceedings*

The Profile of Individuals Seeking Professional Qualification in Brazil (with Ana Flavia Machado), 2013, *Economia e Sociedade* (in Portuguese)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

Research Assistant for Prof. David Molitor

2016-2019

Constructed a dataset of population characteristics at small geographic levels (9-digit zip codes) using spatial techniques for a project on the effect of local climate on individuals' health

Research Assistant for Prof. Richard Akresh

2015, 2016

Employed pooled cross-sectional data to measure the impact of the Rwandan genocide on human capital

**Institute for Social and Environmental Research, Nepal (ISER-N)**

Policy Communication Fellow

2017

Adapted academic papers about environmental and health policies in Nepal into policy briefs. Met with policymakers to understand relevant issues the briefs should address

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Big Data Analytics (Teaching Assistant, Master's)	2017–2019
Latin American Economies (Guest Instructor, Undergraduate)	2018
Macroeconomics Principles (Teaching Assistant, Undergraduate)	2016

### Institute for Social and Environmental Research, Nepal (ISER-N)

Introduction to R for Data Analysis (Main Instructor)	2017
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### Fundação Getúlio Vargas

Microeconomics and Strategic Competition (Teaching Assistant, Master's and Undergraduate)	2011
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## WORK EXPERIENCE

### The World Bank

Researcher at the Development Impact Evaluation Unit (DIME)	2015–2016
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Developed an impact evaluation of community-driven projects to fight deforestation in forest-dependent communities in Argentina, which today have a deforestation rate of 1.2 percent per year

Designed an evaluation to measure the impact on business and mobility of a new metro line in the largest city in Brazil. The metro is expected to serve 21.5 million passengers annually

Impact Evaluation Field Coordinator (DIME)	2013–2014
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Managed the pilot of a randomized controlled trial to increase attendance of an after-school program in a violent neighborhood in Brazil. Participated in data collection, data cleaning, and preliminary analyses

### Itaú-Unibanco

Project Evaluation - Economic Research Analyst	2012–2013
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Estimated the impact of financial literacy programs on employees' financial health by applying quasi-experimental methods. The program affected a significant share of the bank's 96 thousand employees

Evaluated the impact of the bank's community outreach's foundation projects in youth education and development. Applied experimental and quasi-experimental methods and managed data collection

## AWARDS

Robert W. Harbeson Memorial Dissertation Fellowship, University of Illinois	2019
Department Travel Grant, University of Illinois	2017–2019
List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students, University of Illinois	2016, 2018
List of Teachers Ranked as Outstanding by Their Students (top 10% university-wide), University of Illinois	2018
Policy Communication Fellowship, University of Michigan	2017
FAPESP Performance Fellowship	2011, 2012

## PRESENTATIONS

2019: Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) Annual Meeting, North American Regional Science Council (NARSC)

2018: Population Association of America Annual Meeting, H2D2 Research Day at the University of Michigan, Midwest Economics Association

2017: Economics Graduate Student Conference of Washington Univ. in St. Louis, Health and Society in South Asia Conference - University of Pennsylvania

2012/2013: LACEA Annual Meeting, 34<sup>o</sup> Meeting of the Brazilian Econometric Society

## COMPUTER SKILLS

R, Stata, ArcGIS, AWS, Latex, MS Excel (VBA), Python

## LANGUAGES

Portuguese (native), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), French (intermediate), Danish (advanced)

## REFERENCES

Prof. Rebecca Thornton  
Department of Economics, UIUC  
E-mail: rebeccat@illinois.edu

Prof. Nolan Miller  
Department of Finance, UIUC  
E-mail: nmiller@illinois.edu

Prof. David Molitor  
Department of Finance, UIUC  
E-mail: dmolitor@illinois.edu

Prof. Mark Borgschulte  
Department of Economics, UIUC  
E-mail: markborg@illinois.edu

## WORKING PAPER ABSTRACTS

### *Employment Shocks and Demand for Pain Medication (Job Market Paper)*

Declining economic opportunity is often portrayed as one of the drivers of the opioid epidemic. Better employment conditions can, however, affect opioid use through two channels: increasing physical pain from working or reducing mental distress that can contribute to substance abuse. I use a large dataset of opioid and over-the-counter (OTC) painkiller sales to measure the effect of employment shocks on demand for pain medication. To separate the channels, I contrast the effect of labor demand shocks on the use of opioids with the effect on the use of OTC painkillers—which address pain but not mental health—allowing for the effects to depend on the injury rate of local industries. I find that a 1 percent increase in the employment-to-population ratio decreases the per-capita demand for opioids by 0.20 percent, while it increases the per-capita demand for OTC painkillers by 0.14 percent. To decompose the effect of employment on opioid use in the two channels, I calculate the substitution between these pain medications, exploring the introduction of a policy that increased requirements to prescribe opioids. My findings show that during local economic expansions, the decline in opioid abuse is 40 percent larger than the total effect on use while, at the same time, the demand for pain relief medication increases and is related to jobs in high injury industries.

### *When do Women Learn They Are Pregnant? The Introduction of Clinics and Pregnancy Uncertainty in Nepal*

The earlier a woman learns about her pregnancy status, the sooner she can make decisions about her own and her infant's health. This paper examines how women learn about their pregnancy status and measures how access to pregnancy tests affects pregnancy knowledge. Using ten-years of individual-level monthly panel data in Nepal, we find that, on average, women learn they are pregnant in their 5.4th month of pregnancy. Living approximately a mile farther from a clinic offering pregnancy tests increases the time they know they are pregnant by one week (a 4.5 percent increase), and decreases the likelihood of knowing in the first trimester by 3.8 percentage points (a 13.5 percent decrease). Women with prior pregnancies experience the most substantial effects of distance within the first two trimesters, while, for women experiencing their first pregnancy, distance does not affect knowledge in the first trimesters. This difference suggests that access to pregnancy tests is a binding constraint only after women's beliefs, or symptoms, about being pregnant are strong enough.