

JOHN ALEXANDER GÓMEZ MAHECHA

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PhD Candidate and Graduate Research Assistant

Georgia State University – Andrew Young School of Public Policy
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CONTACT INFORMATION

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RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Environmental and Natural Resources Economics, Development Economics, Public Economics, Applied Econometrics.

EDUCATION

2024 (Tentative)	Ph.D. Economics GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY, Atlanta GA, USA. <i>Advisor: Dr. Spencer Banzhaf</i>
2016	M.Sc. Economics UNIVERSIDAD DE LOS ANDES, Bogotá, Colombia. <i>Thesis: Estimación de la Demanda por Calidad de Aire en Bogotá – Una Aproximación por el Modelo de Precios Hedónicos para los Precios de la Vivienda.</i> <i>Advisor: Fernando Carriazo.</i>
2013	B.A. Economics UNIVERSIDAD DE LOS ANDES, Bogotá, Colombia.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022 – ...	GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY, Andrew Young School of Public Policy – Graduate Research Assistant at the Center for State and Local Finance (CSFL) <i>Dr. Peter Bluestone</i>
2018 - 2022	GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY, Andrew Young School of Public Policy – Economics Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant <i>Dr. Lorenzo Almada and Dr. Spencer Banzhaf</i>
2014 - 2018	CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS SOBRE DESARROLLO ECONÓMICO (CEDE), Universidad de los Andes Young Researcher and Research Assistant <i>Dr. Jorge Higinio Maldonado:</i> <i>Project Platform for Evaluation and Learning of the Graduation Program in Latin America. Funded by IDRC, Ford Foundation, Fundación Capital and UNIANDES.</i> <i>Project Conditional Cash Transfer and Rural Development in Latin America. Funded by IFAD and UNIANDES.</i> <i>Project Improving the Articulation between Social Protection and Rural Development Interventions in Developing Countries: Lessons from Latin America and Africa. Funded by IFAD and UNIANDES.</i> <i>Dr. Fernando Carriazo</i> <i>Project The demand for air quality: A case study in Bogotá- Colombia. Funded by LACEEP and CATIE.</i>
2013	CENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE AGRICULTURA TROPICAL (CIAT) Junior Consultant

PUBLICATIONS, WORKING PAPERS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

Working papers

Colombian Carbon Tax: Evidence of Carbon Pricing in Developing Countries. September 2022.

Recently, Colombia implemented its first Carbon tax. In 2017, it became the 3rd country in Latin America to implement it and the 23rd in the world. However, its implementation is just one example of how middle and low-income countries have started implementing this market-based strategy. This paper seeks to understand the effects of the Colombian tax on the emissions of CO₂ coming from various fossil fuels. I use several counterfactual estimators to identify the causal impact of the carbon tax on Colombia's CO₂ emissions per capita. I find conflicting evidence that the tax reform reduces Colombia's emission of CO₂ per capita. The preferred estimations suggest that the tax reduces, on average around 0.13 mTon per year (7% with respect to Colombia's per capita emissions the year before the introduction of the tax). However, the results are not statistically significant.

COVID-19 mortality and contemporaneous air pollution. With W. Austin, S. Carattini and M. Pesko. Revisions Requested at *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*. October 2020. Available online at <https://bit.ly/2XYafgg>

We examine the relationship between contemporaneous fine particulate matter exposure and COVID-19 morbidity and mortality using an instrumental variable approach based on wind direction. Harnessing daily changes in county-level wind direction, we show that arguably exogenous fluctuations in local air quality impact the rate of confirmed cases and deaths from COVID-19. In our preferred high dimensional fixed effects specification with state-level policy and social distancing controls, we find that a one $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ increase in PM 2.5 increases the number of confirmed cases by roughly 2% from the mean case rate in a county. These effects tend to increase in magnitude over longer time horizons, being twice as large over a 3-day period. Meanwhile, a one $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ increase in PM 2.5 increases the same-day death rate by 3% from the mean. Our estimates are robust to a host of sensitivity tests. These results suggest that air pollution plays an important role in mediating the severity of respiratory syndromes such as COVID-19, for which progressive respiratory failure is the primary cause of death, and that policy levers to improve air quality may lead to improvements in COVID-19 outcomes.

Publications

Implementation of graduation programs for alleviating rural poverty: an impact analysis in Paraguay. With J. H. Maldonado, V. León-Jurado, D. Rodríguez, and L. Villa. *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, DOI: 10.1080/19439342.2022.2153379, 2022. Available online at <https://bit.ly/3JQqsd1>

The Demand for Air Quality: A Case Study in Bogotá, Colombia. With Fernando Carriazo. *Environment and Development Economics*, 23 (2), 121-138, 2018. Available online at <http://bit.ly/3Xdu7Ve>

Rural development programmes and conditional cash transfers: examining synergistic effects in Latin America. With Jorge Maldonado and Tomás Rosada (IFAD). *Policy in Focus: Social Protection, Entrepreneurship and Labour Market Activation*, 12(2), 30-32, 2015. Available online at <http://bit.ly/1KqE7O6>.

Books

Maldonado, Moreno-Sánchez, Gómez and León (comp.) (2016). *Protección, Producción, Promoción. Explorando sinergias entre protección social y fomento productivo rural en América Latina*. Ediciones Uniandes, Bogotá, Colombia. Available online at <http://bit.ly/2jCb5ug>.

Book Chapters

Sinergias entre políticas de protección social y proyectos de desarrollo rural: aproximación desde la literatura existente y la teoría, with Jorge H. Maldonado and Viviana León. In Maldonado, Moreno-Sánchez, Gómez and León (comp.) (2016). *Protección, Producción, Promoción. Explorando sinergias entre protección social y fomento productivo rural en América Latina*. Ediciones Uniandes, Bogotá, Colombia.

Work in Progress

The Cost of Excluding the Coal from a Carbon Tax: The Colombian Case

The “too near” effect of Urban greenway trails: The Case of Atlanta’s BeltLine

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2022	Principles of macroeconomics (undergraduate) – Instructor GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY, Atlanta, U.S.A.
Summer 2020	Introduction to econometrics (undergraduate) – Summer’s instructor (online) UNIVERSIDAD DE LOS ANDES, Bogotá, Colombia.
2014 - 2018	Introduction to Econometrics (undergraduate) – weekly computer sessions UNIVERSIDAD DE LOS ANDES, Bogotá, Colombia.
2016	Consumer and Firm Theory (undergraduate) – weekly problem solving sessions UNIVERSIDAD DE LOS ANDES, Bogotá, Colombia.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

Camp Resources XXVIII, held in Asheville NC, USA. Presenting *Colombian Carbon Tax: Can we Learn Something new from Carbon Taxes in Developing Countries?* Funded by NC State University, RFF, IEc, GATECH, JEEM.

Cambria Downtown Asheville Hotel, Asheville – NC, USA. 2022.

Latin American Studies Association – LASA 2018, held in Barcelona, Spain. Presenting *Evidencia de los efectos del programa Sembrando Oportunidades Familia por Familia – La adaptación del esquema graduación en Paraguay*, with Jorge H. Maldonado and Viviana León. Funded by LASA and UNIANDES. Barcelona, Spain. 2018

Global Science Conference 2015 – Climate Smart Agriculture, held in Montpellier, France. Participating in the poster session with the project *A two-dimension evaluation of CSA practices. Evaluating practices by indicators and reduce non-observable variable bias*, with Jorge Maldonado, Caitlin Corner Dolloff (CIAT) and Miguel Lizarazo (CIAT). Funded by CGIAR. CGIAR, Montpellier, France. 2015.

International Conference in Economics, Management and Accounting – ICEMA, held in Bucaramanga, Colombia. Panelist with the document *Propuestas para políticas de responsabilidad social de empresas petroleras en la altillanura colombiana*. Universidad Autónoma de Bucaramanga, Bucaramanga, Colombia. 2012.

GRANT

Grant for the project *The demand for air quality: A case study in Bogotá- Colombia*, with Fernando Carriazo. Centro Agronómico Trópicos de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE), Costa Rica. 2014

SCHOLARSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS

The Jack Blinksilver Scholarship, awarded annually to a student who excels in economics. Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. Economics Department. April 2022.

Fulbright - ICETEX scholarship *Pasaporte a la Ciencia*. Sponsored by the United States Department of State and Colombian government. Since September 2017.

Scholarship for the course *VIII Environmental and Resource Economics Training Course - Valuation and Household Surveys*. LACEEP program hosted by CATIE. Held in Turrialba, Costa Rica, for three weeks during 2014 summer.

REFEREEING EXPERIENCE

Environmental and Resource Economics, Energy & Environment

SKILLS

QUANTITATIVE AND PROGRAMMING
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS
LANGUAGES

Stata, Julia, and R.
ArcGIS, QGIS
Spanish (native), English (fluent) and Portuguese (fluent).

References upon request.

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