MARIA JIMENA ROMERO

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PhD student in Economics interested in labor, behavioral economics, and causal inference.

EDUCATION

Cornell University   **Ithaca - NY, USA**
PhD in Economics   *2025-Present*

Yale University   **New Haven - CT, USA**
Visiting Student in Economics   *2024*
Host: Mushfiq Mobarak

Stockholm University   **Stockholm, Sweden**
PhD in Economics   *2021-2023*
Advisors: Johannes Haushofer, Anna Tompsett

Harvard Kennedy School   **Cambridge - MA, USA**
Master in Public Administration and International Development (MPAID)   *2016-2018*
Awards: Fulbright, Joint Japan/World Bank (JJWB) Graduate Scholarship

Universidad del Pacifico   **Lima, Peru**
Bachelor in Economics   *2005-2010*

WORKING PAPERS

- Abadie, A., Doerr, A., Pinder, T. & Romero, J. "CausalGP: Bayesian Counterfactual Inference for Aggregate Interventions"
- Ibañez, A., Romero, M., Quigua, J. & Velasquez, A. (2022). "Responses to Temperature Shocks: Labor Markets and Migration Decisions in El Salvador". http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0004237 (Forthcoming AEJ: Policy)
- Romero, M., Esopo, K., McGuire J., & Haushofer, J. (2021) "The Effect of Economic Transfers on Psychological Well-Being and Mental Health." [link]
- Romero, M., Dangwal, G. & Romano, E. "Education and Labor Supply Decisions Within Migrant Sending Households"
- Romero, M., Dangwal, G. & Das, M. "Weathering the Storm: The Impact of Weather Shocks on Migration in India"
- Romero, M. & Dangwal, G. "National Highway Expansion, Local Economy and Environment: Evidence from India"

WORK EXPERIENCE

Amazon — Worldwide Integrated Marketing Systems and Intelligence (WIMSI)   **NYC, USA**
Science - Economist Intern   *Jul 2025–Oct 2025*

- Conducted research on causal inference methodologies for marketing effectiveness measurement, including Synthetic Difference-in-Differences and causal Gaussian process models for physical marketing campaigns
- Produced both a technical research document and a business-facing report with actionable recommendations for WIMSI marketing campaigns

Research Scientist   *Oct 2025–Dec 2025*

- Conducted research and empirical analysis on Bayesian synthetic control methods, in collaboration with Alberto Abadie
- Developed a Python package for Bayesian synthetic control, deployed internally via Amazon Code

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)   **Washington - DC, USA**
Research Fellow   *Oct 2018 - Jun 2021*

- Research on migration, climate and conflict. Direct supervisor: Ana Maria Ibañez, Economics Principal Advisor during that period.
- Data visualization tasks on Covid-19 trends, Venezuelan migration in Latam, income inequality, and other relevant information for the work of the Vice-Presidency of Sectors and Knowledge (VPS).
- Coordinated the implementation of the research project "Inequality and Social Mobility in Latin America and the Caribbean" including call for papers, conferences, data visualization, and seminars.
- Coauthored the technical notes:
  - Elías, A.; Granada, I.; Näslund-Hadley, E.; Ortiz, P.; Romero, J.; Dávalos, A. (2022) "Migration and education: challenges and opportunities" http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0004468
  - Zanoni, W.; Romero, J.; Chuquimarca, N.; Abuelafia, E. (2023) "Dealing with Hard-to-Reach Populations in Panel Data: Respondent-Driven Survey (RDS) and Attrition" http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0005194
- Research assistance to the Research Department in:
  - Malamud, O., Cueto, S., Cristia, J., & Beuermann, D. (2019). "Do Children Benefit from Internet Access?: Experimental Evidence from Peru". Journal of Development Economics. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdeveco.2018.11.005
  - Araya, R., Arias, E., Bottan, N., & Cristia, J. (2019) "Does Gamification in Education Work?: Experimental Evidence from Chile". IDB Working Paper. https://doi.org/10.18235/0001777

Busara Center   **Remote**
Consultant   *Aug 2020 - Jun 2021*
- Research on mental health and economic transfers.
- Research assistance in Oeindrila Dube, C., Haushofer, J., Siddiqi, B., & Voors, M. (2021) "Building Resilient Health Systems: Experimental Evidence from Sierra Leone and The 2014 Ebola Outbreak" https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/qjaa039

Ministry of Education   **Lima, Peru**
Strategic Planning Specialist   *Feb 2015 to Jul 2016*
- Responsible for the Strategic Planning Document of the Direction of Quality in Educational Management for the period of 2016-2021, including literature review, setting of goals, indicators and evaluation methods for the different teams.
- Estimated and monitored budget execution.
- Monitored a principals' training program directed to more than 50,000 principals nationwide.
- Established the methodology to estimate the number of principals nationwide.

Investment Specialist

- Oversaw the approval and implementation of the first Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects in education in Peru, including coordination between areas, establishing project deadlines, and monitoring products of the engineering team.
- Supervised implementation of 17 Accelerated Public High Schools for Top Students (COAR in Spanish), with a budget over US$ 20 MM per school. Achieved approval of the Ministry of Economics and Finance of the first school under the OXI modality ("Works for taxes") at the national level in Peru.
- Reviewed private proposals for Educational IT projects in public schools, and coordinated in the definition of parameters of projects including budget, scope, goals, content and indicators and evaluation methods. Oversaw the formulation of IT public project on 1600 high schools with budget over US$ 250MM. Oversaw formulation of pilot project of tablets on 60 primary schools.

Apoyo Consultoria   **Lima, Peru**
Public Policy Consultant   *Apr 2013 - Feb 2015*
- Consolidated the investment Master Plans (forecasting demand, air traffic, investment gap, investment costs, and social and economic benefits) of six airport concessions and established methodology for upcoming six airports of Aeropuertos del Peru.
- Diagnosed capabilities of Regional Governments in rural land titling and developed an investment plan for Inter-American Development Bank.
- Diagnosed current problems related to crime in Peru, including literature review, survey, and public databases analysis for the World Bank and Ministry of Public Affairs.
- Developed a grading system to rank Public Directors for National Authority of Civil Service.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)   **Paris, France**
Research Assistant   *Sep 2013 - Dec 2013*
- Assistance in a study of mining regulations and macroeconomic development in Peru and Colombia.
  - Korinek, J. (2015), "Managing the Minerals Sector: Implications for Trade from Peru and Colombia", OECD Trade Policy Papers, No. 186, OECD Publishing, Paris. http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/5jrp6wrc2r7l-en

Rimac International   **Lima, Peru**
Investment Analyst   *2010-2013*
- Analyzed potential of equity and fixed income investments in private telecom and retail companies with fundamental valuation.
- Monitored telecom and retail portfolio giving warning signs and forecasts. Periodical update of the portfolio's valuations.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Presented in: Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting (2022), ASWEDE (2022, 2023), Oxford VI Workshop on Immigration, Health and Wellbeing (2022), 1st Stockholm University-MPI Workshop on Behavioral Economics (2022), Stockholm-NY Conference in Experimental Behavioral Economics (2023), International Economic Association (IEA) World Congress (2023), Yale Development Lunch (2025), Fourth Forced Displacement Working Group (FDWG) (2025), Third Junior Workshop on Economics of Migration (2025)

TEACHING

Cornell University   **Ithaca, NY**
Teaching Assistant   *2026-Present*
- Development Economics

Stockholm University   **Stockholm, Sweden**
Teaching Assistant   *2022-2023*
- Introduction to Quantitative Methods

Harvard Kennedy School   **Cambridge - MA, USA**
Summer Instructor   *2024, 2023, 2018*
- Information, Data and Decisions
- Quantitative methods

Teaching Assistant   *2017-2018*
- Math Camp in calculus and statistics.
- Introductory statistics: API 205 "Politics and Policies: What Can Data Tell Us?, Fall 2017

Universidad del Pacifico   **Lima, Peru**
Teaching Assistant   *2010*
- Introduction to Microeconomics
- Macroeconomics I

OTHER SKILLS

Coding   STATA, Python, R, Github
Languages Spanish (native), English (fluent), Portuguese (fluent), French (intermediate)
Software   LaTeX, ArcGis, Tableau, Pycharm