



BROWN

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Diversity Statement,

An inclusive environment is central to building a fair society and advancing our understanding of the world. Growing up in Colombia, a mestizo and multicultural country, and educated at Brown University, where reason -not privilege- dictates the appeal of anyone's voice, I learned the power of letting respect and multiple perspectives guide dialogue. In my educational experience, diversity and inclusivity have never been nice-to-haves. Instead, they have been intentional, necessary components of a rigorous education. This experience has shaped the way I have come to think about our shared academic heritage in the social sciences. In economics, we pursue models to help us understand the world, but our data sets, observations, and insights often come from a narrow sliver of that world. I was initially drawn to urban economics because it impressed me with the power of its analytical tools to understand cities and the human behavior that shapes and is shaped by them. Yet, we tend to retrofit American and European policies and models into the developing world. Our current models are insufficient to understand cities like Mumbai, São Paulo, or Bogota, where the market structure and institutions can differ significantly. As an economist from one of these rapidly urbanizing cities, I am uniquely positioned to bring these contexts into the academic conversation and help construct models that accurately represent their distinct realities. If our shared aim is to better understand the social world, bringing new perspectives is essential to make economics a better social science and make economics think outside its box.

Equity underpins the topics I choose to study and teach in my postgraduate education. Over these years, I have sought classes and projects that deepen my understanding of systemic inequalities and power dynamics that I have not experienced personally, including gender and racial inequity. I aim to deeply understand the cycles of exclusion and inequality that permeate our society to actively work to disrupt them in my personal and professional life. In my recent projects, I show how a location-based redistribution policy affects the housing market and study the housing market response to a policy to promote housing affordability. My research enables us to understand better how to provide subsidies to reduce inequality and how to design effective policies to solve critical issues like housing affordability.

In my teaching, I strive to facilitate learning communities that feel trusting and supportive. At the core of this work is a commitment to inclusivity. Teaching undergraduate students with disabilities has been especially rewarding for me because it touches close to home. Some of the people closest to me in my personal life are neurodiverse, and I have seen firsthand the power of high expectations and the right accommodations for student growth. During my office hours and sections, I have found that the more I do to show caring and interest in the students, the more willing they are to take academic risks and share their perspectives. I believe compassion for and cu-

riosity about students is fundamental to great teaching and transformative learning. I look forward to developing ways I can continue to center students and their lived experiences in the content I teach and how my classes are run.

As the first family member to receive a PhD and the first to attend an American university, I hope to be an example and mentor students who do not fit traditional molds. I want them to see themselves in the institution. I hope to curate courses that center on critical thinking and identity. The most influential professors I had have done this for me is the legacy I want to uphold and pass on to the next generation of economists. I believe your department would be an ideal intellectual home for me, one that shares my passion and commitment to making our field a more inclusive and, therefore, a more intellectually rigorous and relevant discipline.

Sincerely,

Juan Pablo Uribe