



BROWN

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November 15, 2021

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 professional collaborative settings, I strive to contribute to an atmosphere that feels trusting and supportive. At the core of this work is a commitment to inclusivity. Working with people with information processing styles and work styles different from my own has been particularly rewarding. I have worked with a range of coauthors across my research projects. Coming to a project from different continents, age groups, language backgrounds, gender identities, and other social identify markers has been an asset in our work. At Brown, I have also been lucky enough to be part of a diverse community of researchers. Our department has a reputation for hosting particularly

lively and engaged seminars. I believe that is directly related to the range of personalities, identities, and perspectives in our department. My colleagues at Brown have enriched my personal and professional life. With them, I have learned to communicate effectively and deeply understand across lines of difference.

Diversity and inclusivity are more than just values to me, they are fundamental components of a rich intellectual and professional life. I have found that the more time I take to deeply get to know my colleagues as people, the more willing we are to take academic risks and share our perspectives. I believe compassion for and curiosity about others is fundamental to transformative learning and research spaces. I look forward to developing ways I can continue to center teamwork and collaboration in my research and professional intellectual life.

Sincerely,

Juan Pablo Uribe