

# MAYRA SÁENZ

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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)  
Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics  
1301 W Gregory Dr  
Urbana, IL 61801

[Website  
mayraas2@illinois.edu](http://mayraas2@illinois.edu)  
+1 (202) 765 - 4346  
Citizenship: Ecuadorian

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## EDUCATION

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*Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) 2017 - 2023  
with Minor in *Gender Relations in International Development*

*M.A. in Development Economics*, Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) 2009 - 2011

*B.Sc. in Marketing Engineering*, Armed Forces Polytechnic School (ESPE) 2004 - 2009

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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*Research Assistant*, Prof. Arends-Kuenning, UIUC 2022 - Present

*Research Assistant*, Prof. Pflugh Prescott and Prof. Ellison, UIUC 2021 - Present

*Consultant*, World Bank - Nicaragua Country Office 2022

*Consultant*, World Bank - DECPI 2019 - 2021

*Research Assistant*, Prof. Michelson, UIUC 2019

*Consultant*, Inter-American Development Bank - Social Sector 2018

*Social Research Consultant*, Inter-American Development Bank - Social Sector 2013-2017

*Researcher*, FLACSO - Department of Economics 2012-2013

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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“The impact of health public insurance on inter-generational transfers.”.

“Pathways into single motherhood and their implications for children’s wellbeing in Nicaragua” (with [M. Arends-Kuenning](#)).

“To waste or not to waste? Exploring the complexity of student dietary behaviors in school cafeterias” (with [M. Pflugh Prescott](#), [B. Ellison](#), [R. Ofori](#), S. Palmer, and I. Ciubotariu).

“Students’ peer effects on food selection and consumption” (with [M. Pflugh Prescott](#), [B. Ellison](#), [R. Ofori](#), S. Palmer, and I. Ciubotariu).

“An agent-based model of the school cafeteria and meal patterns: Feedback of school nutrition stakeholders” (with [M. Pflugh Prescott](#), [B. Ellison](#), [R. Ofori](#), S. Palmer, and I. Ciubotariu).

“The impact of performance-based and unconditional facility financing on maternal and child health: Evidence from five Sub-Saharan African countries” (with [D. de Walque](#), [J. Friedman](#), [E. Kandpal](#), and [C. Vermeersch](#)).

## WORKING PAPERS

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[The effect of monetary losses due to weather shocks on food security in Malawi: A subjective approach](#), 2020.

[Analysis of the tax reform in Ecuador, 2001-2012](#). (with [V. Aguiar](#) and L. Castro). *Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*. Macroeconomics of the Development Series No.143, 2013.

Ex-ante impacts of three commercial agreements in the Ecuadorian economy (with V. Aguiar and H. Jacome). *Linea Sur Magazine*, 2012.

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

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Poverty, vulnerability, and the middle class in Latin America (with M. Stampini, M. Robles, P. Ibarra, and N. Medellin). *Latin American Economic Review*, 2016.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

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Intergenerational persistence in education, (with M. Robles). In S. Duryea and M. Robles (Ed). *Social Pulse in Latin America and the Caribbean 2017: Family Legacy, Breaking the Mold or Repeating Patterns?* (pp. 12-41). Inter-American Development Bank.

Indicators of context and indicators of outcome, (with S. Duryea, S. Insfran, M. Robles, V. Saldarriaga and D. Zuluaga). In S. Duryea and M. Robles (Ed). *Social Pulse in Latin America and the Caribbean 2017: Family Legacy, Breaking the Mold or Repeating Patterns?* (pp. 84-140). Inter-American Development Bank.

Indicators of context and indicators of outcome, (with S. Duryea, M. Robles, M. Rubio, and D. Saric). In S. Duryea and M. Robles (Ed). *Latin American and Caribbean Social Pulse 2016: realities and perspectives* (pp. 25-63). Inter-American Development Bank.

The case of Ecuador, (with L. Czarnecki and E. Balleza). *Poverty and inequality in Ecuador, Brazil, and Mexico after the 2008 global crisis*. Koźmiński Studies in Management and Economics, 2014, Volume 2.

## SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS

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Award for the Most Outstanding Second Year Research Paper, UIUC	2019
Chester Bull Roberts Fellowship, UIUC	2018
M. Frances Henry Fellowship, UIUC	2017 - 2018
Merit-based Fellowship, MA in Development Economics, FLACSO	2009-2011
Award for the Most Outstanding Student in Marketing Engineering, ESPE	2009
Academic Excellence Scholarship, ESPE	2004 - 2008

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

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Manage Successful Impact Evaluation Surveys course. Auditor Certificate. World Bank	2021
Multidimensional Poverty Analysis. OPHI, University of Oxford	2016
Labor Markets, Poverty and Inequality in Latin America. CEDLAS, University of La Plata	2012

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### At UIUC:

World Food Economy (Undergraduate), Teaching Assistant for Prof. Michelson	2019 - 2022
World Food Economy (Undergraduate), Teaching Assistant for Prof. Gundersen	2021
Behavioral Economics (Undergraduate), Teaching Assistant for Prof. Lyons	2020

### At FLACSO:

Development Economics Thesis Advisor (Graduate), Instructor	2012 - 2013
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<i>Quantitative Methods</i> (Graduate), Teaching Assistant for Prof. Ponce	2012
<i>Political Economy for Development</i> (Graduate), Teaching Assistant for Prof. Dutt	2012
<i>Applied Statistics Workshop</i> (Graduate), Teaching Assistant for Prof. Aguiar	2011
<i>General Algebraic Modeling System Workshop</i> (Graduate), Teaching Assistant for Prof. Aguiar	2011

## CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

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**2020** - Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Conference

**2013** - Swiss Sociological Association Conference (University of Bern)

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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*President*, ACE Graduate Student Organization, UIUC 2020 - 2021

## SKILLS

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**Software:** STATA, SPSS, R

**Language:** English (Proficient), Spanish (native), Italian (Intermediate)

## REFERENCES

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Mary Arends-Kuenning  
Associate Professor  
Dep. of Agricultural and Consumer Economics  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
[marends@illinois.edu](mailto:marends@illinois.edu)

Hope Michelson  
Associate Professor  
Dep. of Agricultural and Consumer Economics  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
[hopecm@illinois.edu](mailto:hopecm@illinois.edu)

Melissa Pflugh Prescott  
Assistant Professor  
Dep. of Food Science and Human Nutrition  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
[mpp22@illinois.edu](mailto:mpp22@illinois.edu)

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