# **MAYRA SÁENZ**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics 1301 W Gregory Dr Urbana, IL 61801 Website mayraas2@illinois.edu +1 (202) 765 - 4346 Citizenship: Ecuadorian

# **EDUCATION**

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

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**

"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

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.

<sup>&</sup>quot;The impact of health public insurance on inter-generational transfers.".

<sup>&</sup>quot;Pathways into single motherhood and their implications for children's wellbeing in Nicaragua" (with M. Arends-Kuenning).

<sup>&</sup>quot;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).

<sup>&</sup>quot;Students' peer effects on food selection and consumption" (with M. Pflugh Prescott, B. Ellison, R. Ofori, S. Palmer, and I. Ciubotariu).

<sup>&</sup>quot;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).

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

# **JOURNAL ARTICLES**

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

#### **BOOK CHAPTERS**

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. Insfrán, 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. KoŹńmiński Studies in Management and Economics, 2014, Volume 2.

SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS	
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	
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	
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

Quantitative Methods (Graduate), Teaching Assistant for Prof. Ponce	2012
Political Economy for Development (Graduate), Teaching Assistant for Prof. Dutt	2012
Applied Statistics Workshop (Graduate), Teaching Assistant for Prof. Aguiar	2011
General Algebraic Modeling System Workshop (Graduate), Teaching Assistant for Prof. Aguiar	2011

# **CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS**

2020 - Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Conference

2013 - Swiss Sociological Association Conference (University of Bern)

# OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

President, ACE Graduate Student Organization, UIUC

2020 - 2021

# **SKILLS**

**Software**: STATA, SPSS, R

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

### REFERENCES

Mary Arends-Kuenning Associate Professor Dep. of Agricultural and Consumer Economics University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign marends@illinois.edu

Melissa Pflugh Prescott Assistant Professor Dep. of Food Science and Human Nutrition University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign mpp22@illinois.edu Hope Michelson Associate Professor Dep. of Agricultural and Consumer Economics University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign hopecm@illinois.edu

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