

# MAYRA SÁENZ

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Citizenship: Ecuadorian  
Italian Residence Permit

## EDUCATION

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*Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics*, University of Illinois (UIUC) 2017 - 2024 (expected)  
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 (Summer job) 2022  
*Consultant*, World Bank - DECPI 2019 - 2021  
*Research Assistant*, Prof. Michelson, UIUC 2019  
*Consultant*, Inter-American Development Bank - Social Sector (Summer job) 2018  
*Social Research Consultant*, Inter-American Development Bank - Social Sector 2013-2017  
*Researcher*, FLACSO - Department of Economics 2011-2013

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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“Can Institutional Factors Affect Intergenerational Family Transfers?” (*Job Market Paper*)  
“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).

## 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. Ibarraran, and N. Medellín). *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. 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. Czarniecki and E. Balleza). *Poverty and inequality in Ecuador, Brazil, and Mexico after the 2008 global crisis*. Peter Lang GmbH, Internationaler Verlag der Wissenschaften.

## SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS

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Conference Travel Award, UIUC ( <i>Summer, Fall</i> )	2023
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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<i>Graduate Teacher Certificate</i> . The Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning. UIUC	2022
<i>Manage Successful Impact Evaluation Surveys course</i> . Auditor Certificate. World Bank	2021
<i>Multidimensional Poverty Analysis</i> . Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) University of Oxford	2016
<i>Labor Markets, Poverty and Inequality</i> . Center for Distributive, Labor and Social Studies (CEDLAS) University of La Plata	2012

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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<i>World Food Economy</i> (Undergraduate), UIUC, Teaching Assistant	2019 - 2022
<i>Behavioral Economics</i> (Undergraduate), UIUC, Teaching Assistant	2020
<i>Development Economics Thesis Advisor</i> (Graduate), FLACSO, Instructor	2012 - 2013

<i>Quantitative Methods</i> (Graduate), FLACSO, Teaching Assistant	2012
<i>Political Economy for Development</i> (Graduate), FLACSO, Teaching Assistant	2012
<i>Applied Statistics Workshop</i> (Graduate), FLACSO, Teaching Assistant	2011
<i>General Algebraic Modeling System Workshop</i> (Graduate), FLACSO, Teaching Assistant	2011

## CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

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**2023** - Population Association of America (PAA), Sociology Colloquia Seminar, Center for Global Studies (CGS) Webinar, Gender Relations in International Development (GRID) Seminar\*, Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA)\*

*\*Scheduled*

**2020** - Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA)

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

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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*President*, Agricultural and Consumer Economics (ACE) Graduate Student Organization, UIUC 2020 - 2021

## SKILLS

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**Software:** STATA, SPSS, R

**Language:** English (Proficient), Spanish (Native), Italian (Advanced)

## 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)

Melissa Pflugh Prescott  
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Dep. of Food Science and Human Nutrition  
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