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 Citizenship: Ecuadorian Italian Residence Permit

EDUCATION

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

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

WORKING PAPERS

"Can Institutional Factors Affect Intergenerational Family Transfers?" (Job Market Paper)

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.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- "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).

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.* Peter Lang GmbH, Internationaler Verlag der Wissenschaften.

SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS

Behavioral Economics (Undergraduate), UIUC, Teaching Assistant

Development Economics Thesis Advisor (Graduate), FLACSO, Instructor

Conference Travel Award, UIUC (Summer, Fall)	2023
Award for the Most Outstanding Second Year Research Paper, UIUC	2019
Chester Bull Roberts Fellowship, UIUC	2013
M. Frances Henry Fellowship, UIUC	2017 - 2018
Merit-based Fellowship, MA in Development Economics, FLACSO	2009-201
Award for the Most Outstanding Student in Marketing Engineering, ESPE	2009
Academic Excellence Scholarship, ESPE	2004 - 2008
ADDITIONAL TRAINING Graduate Teacher Certificate. The Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning. UIUC	2022
Manage Successful Impact Evaluation Surveys course. Auditor Certificate. World Bank	202
Multidimensional Poverty Analysis. Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) University of Oxford	2010
Labor Markets, Poverty and Inequality. Center for Distributive, Labor and Social Studies (CED). University of La Plata	LAS) 2012
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	
World Food Economy (Undergraduate), UIUC, Teaching Assistant	2019 - 2022

2020

2012 - 2013

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

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

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)

2020 - Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA)

2013 - Swiss Sociological Association Conference (University of Bern)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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

SKILLS

Software: STATA, SPSS, R

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

REFERENCES

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

Melissa Pflugh Prescott Brenna Ellison **Assistant Professor** Associate Professor

Department of Nutrition School of Medicine

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