

Marcela Aguilar

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Business, Accounting

Rice University
Ph.D. candidate

Aug, 2021- Present
Houston, TX
Advisor: Dr. K. Ramesh

Master of Science in Economics and Public Policy

University of York
Graduated with distinction

Sep, 2017- Sep, 2018
York, England

Thesis: El Salvador: Fiscal impact of aging population and their health demands 2010-2050

Bachelor in Economics

Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas
Graduated with distinction

Feb, 2011-Nov, 2016
La Libertad - El Salvador

Thesis: Education and Demographic Dividend: A Window of Opportunity for the Development of El Salvador

Completed 40% of coursework for Bachelor in Mathematics

National University of El Salvador

Feb, 2013-Nov, 2016
San Salvador - El Salvador

WORKING PAPER

- Aguilar, M., Lind, G. and Ramesh, K. (2024). The Role of Accounting in the Informal Economy: The Case of Microenterprises.

PRIOR NON-ACADEMIC RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

- Chavez, C., Aguilar, M. (2021) [The Impact of Community Violence on Educational Outcomes: A review of the literature.](#)
- ILO (2020) [Analysis of the Potential Impact on the Salvadoran Youth Labor Market Resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (research coordinator).
- ILO (2020) [Survey of Micro-Businesses in the Informal Economy in the Northern Countries of Central America](#) (primary researcher).
- ILO (2020) [Diagnostic of the Informal Economy](#) (primary researcher).
- ILO (2018) [New forms of child labor](#) (primary researcher).

PRESENTATIONS

- Paper presentation at FARS conference (2025)
- Paper presentation at HARC conference (2025)
- Paper presentation at the University of Cyprus (2024)
- Discussant at the FARS conference (2024)
- Understanding the Informal Economy Forum, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (2024)
- Global Knowledge Sharing Forum on Informal Economy, Turin, Italy (2019)
- Global Youth Employment Forum (informal economy), Abuja, Nigeria (2019)

CONFERENCE AND EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

- Experimental and Behavioral Economics Summer School, by the European Economic Review (2024)
- Survey Design Experimental Methods Workshop, Michigan State University (2024)
- Lone Star Accounting Conference (2024)
- Financial Accounting and Reporting Section (FARS), (2023-2025)

- American Accounting Association (AAA), Denver (2023)
- Machine Learning Boot Camp, Rice University (2023)
- Machine Learning and Causal Inference, Mixtape Sessions (2023, online)
- Accounting Theory Summer School, Duke University (2022)
- Academy on the transition to formal economy. International Labour Organization, Turin, Italy (2018)
- Course in Quantitative Methods, STATA and Matlab. Alberto Hurtado University, Chile (2017)
- Diploma in National Employment Policy. International Labour Organization, Turin, Italy (2015)

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIP

- Expanding Horizons Fellowship 2025
- Deloitte Foundation Doctoral Fellowship 2024
- University funding to organize the first conference on developing economies for accounting research 2024

HONORS

- AAA Midyear Meeting Outstanding Discussant Award 2024
- York Award Gold by the University of York 2018
- Chevening Program Scholar by the British Government 2017
- Mentor for young women in vulnerable situations, ESEN, El Salvador 2017
- Central American Women Chess Champion 2011
- [National Women Chess Champion of El Salvador](#) 2010
- Member of the National Women Chess Team of El Salvador 2009-2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Rice University** Summer 2024
- Financial Accounting - BUSI 305 (a required junior-level course for business majors and minors)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Regional Project Manager** May, 2019 – May, 2021
- International Labour Organization, ILO Costa Rica, San José (remotely)
- ILO representative at the UN Country Team (UNCT) at El Salvador
- Coordinate research about informal economy in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras
- Informal Economy Consultant** Jan, 2019 – Apr, 2019
- International Labour Organization, ILO Costa Rica, San José (remotely)
- Research about the main causes of informal economy, including qualitative and quantitative analysis for Central America
- Research Assistant** Nov, 2018 – May, 2019
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, UNICEF Florence, Italy
- Research about the impacts of violence on educational outcomes for school-aged children in Latin American countries
- Internship in the Sustainable Development Department** Sep, 2018 – Nov, 2018
- International Labour Organization, ILO Turin, Italy
- Prepare and promote course materials on procurement management in the public sector
- Child Labour Consultant** Ago, 2017 – Dic, 2017
- International Labour Organization, ILO Costa Rica, San José (remotely)
- Research on new child labour models in the context of gangs in El Salvador
- Analyst of Economic and Social Affairs** Jul, 2015 – Jul, 2017
- National Association of Private Enterprise, ANEP San Salvador, El Salvador
- Assistant Economic Affairs and Project Coordinator** Feb, 2015 – Jul, 2015
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry of El Salvador San Salvador, El Salvador