

Marcelo Ortiz-Villavicencio

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Atlanta, GA
Last updated: May 2025

EDUCATION

Emory University <i>Ph.D in Economics</i>	Atlanta, GA 2022 - current
Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral (ESPOL) <i>M.Sc. in Economics</i>	Guayaquil, Ecuador 2019 - 2021
Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral (ESPOL) <i>B.A. in Economics</i>	Guayaquil, Ecuador 2014 - 2019

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Econometrics, Causal Inference, Machine Learning & Applied Microeconomics.

PUBLICATIONS

1. Heterogeneous treatment effects of a voluntary Inclusionary Zoning program on housing prices (with Gonzalo E. Sánchez & Mario A. Fernández).
Housing Studies, vol. 40(3), 2024, p. 722 - 747.

WORKING PAPERS

1. Better Understanding Triple Differences Estimators (with Pedro H. C. Sant'Anna), 2025.
2. Learning Counterfactual Dynamics via Wasserstein Parallel Transport (with Ka Yan Cheng, Wonjun Choi and Florian Gunsilius), 2025.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Emory University <i>Research Assistant to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Prof. Pedro H.C. Sant'Anna: Spring 2024 - Present◦ Prof. Elena Pesavento: Fall 2023	Atlanta, GA
Inter-American Development Bank <i>Research Assistant to Juan Pablo Chauvin, Ph.D.</i>	Washington D.C. Aug 2021 - Feb 2022
ESPOL <i>Undergraduate Research Assistant</i>	Guayaquil, Ecuador Jan 2018 - Sept 2019

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Emory University <i>Instructor / Teaching Assistant</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Computational Data Science for Economics: (Instructor, Masters level) Fall 2024, Fall 2025.◦ Econometric Methods I: (TA, PhD level) Spring 2024.◦ Parametric Statistics: (TA, Undergraduate level) Fall 2023, Fall 2024.◦ Econometrics: (TA, Undergraduate level) Fall 2023.	Atlanta, GA
ESPOL <i>Teaching Assistant</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Econometrics II: (Undergraduate level) Fall 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2019.◦ Statistical Inference: (Undergraduate level) Spring 2017.	Guayaquil, Ecuador 2017 - 2019

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS & HONORS

- 2025: 1st place in the Economics Student Research Fair (Emory).
- 2022: Laney Graduate School Fellowship for Doctoral studies (Emory).
- 2021: MSc. Economics, Summa cum laude (ESPOL).
- 2019: Masters Full Scholarship (ESPOL).
- 2018: Elected as a Student Representative on the Board of Directors of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities (ESPOL).
- 2018: Awarded a *Merit Scholarship* for academic excellence and distinction as an undergraduate in the Department of Economics (ESPOL).
- 2011-2014: Recipient of the *Medalla Escolar* from the Benemerit Guayas Philanthropic Society (awarded to the top students across all schools in Guayaquil).

SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

- 2025: 4th Georgia Econometrics Workshop (Georgia Tech) | Cafe CIEC (ESPOL)
- 2024: *Optimization-Conscious Econometrics Summer School - OCE III (The University of Chicago) | Midwest Econometrics Group Conference 2024 (University of Kentucky)*
- 2020: *12th International Conference on Social Informatics (Online)*.
- 2019: *IX Semana Internacional de Economía (Quito, Ecuador)*.
- 2019: *Latin American WEB Congress* (San Francisco, CA).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Rappi
Sr. Data Scientist

Bogota, Colombia
2021 - 2023

I developed ML models and systems to prevent fraud while enhancing the platform’s user experience. I implemented real-time prediction microservices with ~30 requests per second, automated ML pipelines, and built data pipelines for ETL and feature engineering. Additionally, I conducted experiments, fine-tuned models using statistical analysis, and optimized solutions to improve customer, rider, and partner satisfaction.

Addi
Data Science Consultant

Bogota, Colombia
Mar 2022 - May 2022

I contributed to the company’s first in-house fraud prevention model for its buy-now-pay-later platform. Leveraging ML and large-scale data processing tools, I developed and optimized data-driven solutions to address complex fraud detection challenges during a short-term engagement.

Nodel/Maven Road
Data Scientist

Guayaquil, Ecuador
2019 - 2021

I built models to categorize social media data using ML and NLP, performed time series analysis for early warnings and anomaly detection, and independently documented, presented findings, and implemented solutions.

TECHNICAL SKILLS & SOFTWARE

- *Computer Languages:* Python, R, SQL, C++, Matlab, Stata.
- *Libraries & Technologies:* Scikit-learn, XGBoost, Pytorch, TensorFlow, MLflow, Databricks, AWS, Microsoft Azure, GCP, Snowflake, Airflow, Spark.

MISCELLANEOUS

- *Referee Service:* Journal of Econometrics
- *Languages:* Spanish (native) | English (fluent)
- *Citizenship:* Ecuador