

María Alexandra Castellanos

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics , Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	2024 (expected)
<i>Research Interests: Applied Econometrics, Labor Economics and Development.</i>	<i>Madrid, Spain</i>
<i>Academic Advisor: Professor Jan Stuhler</i>	
Visiting PhD Student , Economics Department, Boston University	2023 (Fall)
<i>Host: Professor M. Daniele Paserman</i>	<i>Boston, USA</i>
MRes in Economic Analysis , Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	2020
<i>GPA: 8.5/10. Master Thesis: 9/10.</i>	<i>Madrid, Spain</i>
MSc. Economics , University College London	2017
<i>Graduated with Distinction.</i>	<i>London, UK</i>
BSc. Economics , Universidad de las Américas	2015
<i>GPA: 9.8/10. Chancellor's Gold Medal Award for the highest academic record.</i>	<i>Quito, Ecuador</i>
Exchange program , Università degli Studi di Verona	2011
<i>Course: Political Philosophy.</i>	<i>Verona, Italy</i>

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- PhD Scholarship, UC3M Economics Department & FPI Grant. 2018-2024.
- [Chevening Scholarship](#) International Leadership Program, UK Government FCDO. 2016-2017.
- Citi Journalism Excellence Award, Citibank & Columbia University, New York. 2015.
- Academic Excellence Scholarship, Universidad de las Américas. 2010-2015.
- Chancellor's Gold Medal Award: Best Graduate. Highest GPA among all Bachelor's programs, Universidad de las Américas. 2015.
- Second Prize Award: Business and Economics Essay Contest, Universidad de las Américas. 2013.

RESEARCH

Working Papers

“Immigration, Parenthood and Child Penalties”

Abstract: In this study, I analyze the impact of an expansion of household services availability on child penalties. The sudden supply shock in domestic and childcare services stemming from the Spanish migration boom provides a unique quasi-experimental setting to examine whether the availability of affordable substitutes for household production can reduce gender disparities in the labor market and the penalties associated with parenthood. Using a novel individual-level measure of child penalty and a rich matched employer-employee administrative dataset, I combine a difference-in-differences strategy with an instrumental variable design. I find that the expansion of domestic services driven by the inflow of female immigrant workers reduced the gender-gap associated with child penalties for native workers. The effect is persistent over time and more pronounced for relatively lower-skilled native women, suggesting that affordable substitutes for household production can help not only to alleviate gender gaps but also to reduce within-gender inequality.

“Quasi-Random Matches: Evidence from Dual Labor Markets” (with Henry Redondo & Jan Stuhler)

Abstract: A fast-growing literature studies how sorting into particular jobs, firms, or locations affects workers. The key challenge when studying such questions is the non-random sorting of workers into jobs. We propose a novel identification strategy that exploits the timing of worker-firm matching. We isolate quasi-random variation in matches by interacting high-frequency information on the duration of contracts on the labor supply and transitory fluctuations in job creation on the labor demand side. We apply this method to address a central question in dual labor markets: how do different contract types -fixed-term or open-ended contracts- affect workers' careers? We find that transitory variation in the opening of permanent contracts is highly predictive of individual promotion probabilities and has long-lasting effects on earnings, employment, and the accumulation of experience in permanent positions.

“Immigration and Native Labor Market outcomes: Evidence from Spain”

Work in Progress

“Immigration and Social Capital in the UK” (with Luigi Minale)

“The demand effect from refugee immigration” (with Jakob Hennig)

“Crime and Gender: Assessing Violence Against Women”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate TA, Economics Department, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Econometrics, English, Fall 2021

Macroeconomics, English, Fall 2021

Undergraduate, Economics Department, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Quantitative Microeconomics (Microeconometrics), English & Spanish, Fall 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022

Econometric Techniques (Time Series), English, Fall 2020

Applied Economics, English & Spanish, Spring 2020, 2021

Introduction to Mathematics for Economics, Spanish, Fall, 2019.

Excellence Teaching Award: Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022.

Main Instructor, Economics Department, Universidad de las Américas

Advanced Econometrics, Spanish, Spring 2018

International Trade, Spanish, Spring 2018

WORK EXPERIENCE

Consultant, *Inter-American Development Bank & Econometría S.A.*

Ecuador

2022-2023

- **Project:** Experimental RCT intervention to reduce bias against immigrant students.

Researcher & Lecturer, *Universidad de las Américas, Economic Research Center*

Quito, Ecuador

2018

Research Associate, *National Institute of Economic & Social Research*

London, United Kingdom

2017

- **Project:** Brexit and The Health and Social Care Workforce in the UK: Analysis of the role of EEA nationals: Securing clear, reasonable routes for immigration both during and after the UK's exit from the EU.

Economic Consultant, *TNK Economics*

Quito, Ecuador

2013-2016

- Consulting projects in economics and finance for public, private sector, and multilateral organizations; policy evaluation studies including cost-benefit analyses. Member of the Macroeconomic consistency model and forecasting team (financial programming).

Consultant, *Inter-American Development Bank*

Quito, Ecuador

2015-2016

- **Project:** Evaluation of Education Reforms between 2007-2014.

Research Assistant, *Economic Research Center, Universidad de las Américas*

Quito, Ecuador

2011-2015

- Contribution to applied research projects, including:
 - Economic appraisal and impact evaluation methodology for a financial inclusion program.
 - Revision of the Inter-sectoral National Strategy for Integral Early Childhood Development.
 - Evaluation of the degree of over-indebtedness within the Financial System.

SEMINARS, CONFERENCES & OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Presentations:

- **Forthcoming:** Stockholm University (November 2023). SAEe, University of Salamanca (December 2023)
- **2023** 16th AFD-World Bank International Conference on Migration and Development (*Discussant*). Applied Micro Workshop, Boston University (USA). EEA-ESEM Barcelona School of Economics (Spain). 21st century Applied Micro (Germany). ENTER Jamboree, University of Mannheim (Germany). 5th Queen Mary University Economics and Finance Workshop (UK). PhD Workshop, Universidad Carlos III (Spain 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023).
- **2022** NHH Norwegian School of Economics (Norway). University of Southampton (online).
- **2020** Economics Seminar Series at Universidad San Francisco de Quito.

Academic Activities:

- Scientific Committee of the Junior Workshop on the Economics of Migration. Paris, France. June 2023.
- Co-organizer of [The Economics of Migration Junior Seminar](#). Since Fall 2021-Present.
- Organizer of the PhD Applied-Work-in-Progress seminar. Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. Fall 2022.
- Member of the University College London team for the [Econometric Game](#). University of Amsterdam. 2017.

Selected Training:

- *New Developments in the Econometrics of Heterogeneous Workers and Firms*. CEMFI, Spain. 2022.
- *IV with Heterogeneous Treatment Effects - Empirical Bayes & Large Scale Inference*. CRC TR 224 Bonn-Mannheim Summer School, Germany. 2023.
- *HCEO-FAIR Socioeconomic Inequality*. NHH & HCEO-University of Chicago. Norway. 2022.
- *Python for Webscrapping*. University Tor Vergata. 2022.
- *The Economics of Crime over Time and Space*. University of Southampton. 2022.

REFeree EXPERIENCE

European Economic Review, Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics, ACI-USFQ

COMPUTER SKILLS

Software: STATA, R, EViews, L^AT_EX, Excel. Python: PhD module on webscrapping

LANGUAGES

English (Full proficiency), Spanish (Native), Italian (Full proficiency), Portuguese (Intermediate)

PRE-DOCTORAL PUBLICATIONS AND POLICY REPORTS

Book Chapters: De la Torre, A., Cueva, S., & Castellanos-Vásconez, M. A. (2020). The Macroeconomics of the Commodities Boom in Ecuador: A Comparative Perspective. In *Assessing the Left Turn in Ecuador* (pp. 163-212). Palgrave Macmil, Cham. [DOI:10.1007/978-3-030-27625-6_8](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-27625-6_8)

Policy Reports: Dolton, P. , Nguyen, D. , Rolfe, H. and Castellanos, M. (2018). Brexit and the Health & Social Care Workforce in the UK. Report to the Cavendish Coalition, NIESR.

LEADERSHIP & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- [Chevening Scholarship](#), International Leadership Program. London, UK. 2016-2017.
- Co-founder & Partner, Bloomsbury Policy Group: independent, non-partisan organization with a mission to promote innovative and evidence-based policymaking in Latin America. 2017-present.
- Freelance Contributor, [Revista Gestión Economía y Sociedad](#). General audience economics and finance journalism. 2013-2015.
- Co-organizer of “*Entrepreneur to Businesswoman*”, within the project “Mujer Emprende” sponsored by the U.S. Embassy. 2014.
- Member of the “Junior World Entrepreneurship Forum”. Chamber of Commerce of Quito, Startups & Ventures and Universidad de las Américas. 2011.
- Volunteer for a Literacy Program for seniors. Quito, Ecuador. 2008-2009.
- Volunteer for a Reforestation Program at Itchimbia Park. Quito, Ecuador. 2008-2009.