

# María Alexandra Castellanos

mariacastellanosv@gmail.com ♦ marcaste@eco.uc3m.es ♦ (+34) 625 875 573

Website: mariaalexandracastellanos.github.io

## EDUCATION

<b>Ph.D.(c) in Economics</b> , Universidad Carlos III de Madrid <i>Research Interests: Applied Econometrics, Labour Economics and Development.</i> <i>Main Advisor: Professor Jan Stuhler</i>	2020-2024(e) Madrid, Spain
<b>Visiting PhD Student</b> , Economics Department, Boston University <i>Host: Professor M. Daniele Paserman</i>	Fall 2023
<b>MRes in Economic Analysis</b> , Universidad Carlos III de Madrid <i>GPA: 8.5/10. Master Thesis: 9/10.</i>	2018-2020 Madrid, Spain
<b>MSc. Economics</b> , University College London <i>Classification: Distinction.</i>	2017 London, United Kingdom
<b>BSc. Economics</b> , Universidad de las Américas <i>GPA: 9.8/10. Chancellor's Gold Medal Award for the highest academic record.</i>	2015 Quito, Ecuador
<b>Exchange programme</b> , Università degli Studi di Verona <i>Course: Political Philosophy.</i>	2011 Verona, Italy

## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

<b>• Academic Scholarship</b> Economics Department & FPI Scholarship, Universidad Carlos III Madrid.	2018-present
<b>• Chevening Scholarship, International Leadership Programme</b> Fully-funded scholarship to pursue the MSc Economics at University College London. Awarded by the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office.	2016-2017
<b>•Citi Journalism Excellence Award</b> , Citibank Prize comprised a Business Journalism Seminar at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, New York – United States.	2015
<b>•Academic Excellence Scholarship</b> Universidad de las Américas	2010 - 2015
<b>• Chancellor's Gold Medal Award: Best Graduate</b> For graduating with the highest GPA among all Bachelor's programmes. Universidad de las Américas.	2015
<b>• Second Prize Award at the Business and Economics Essay Contest</b> Universidad de las Américas.	2013

## WORK EXPERIENCE

<b>Consultant</b> <i>Inter-American Development Bank - Econometría S.A.</i>	Jul. 2022 - May 2023
<b>• Project:</b> Experimental RCT intervention to reduce bias against immigrant students. Led the empirical analysis and experimental design.	
<b>Lecturer &amp; Researcher</b> <i>Universidad de las Américas, Economic Research Centre</i>	Mar. 2018 - Aug. 2018 Quito, Ecuador
<b>Research Associate</b> <i>National Institute of Economic &amp; Social Research</i>	Sep. 2017 - Jan. 2018 London, United Kingdom
<b>• Project:</b> 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

Sep. 2013 - Jul. 2016

Quito, Ecuador

- Member of the macroeconomic consistency model and forecasting team.
- Consulting projects in economics and finance for private banks, public sector and multilateral organisations; public policy evaluation studies including cost-benefit analyses; elaboration of industry reports.
- Analysis of quantitative and qualitative data; contribute to report drafting and presentations; interviews and meetings with key stakeholders, direct client support.

**Consultant**

Inter-American Development Bank

Sep. 2015 - Mar. 2016

Quito, Ecuador

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

**Research Assistant**

Economic Research Centre, Universidad de las Américas

Sep. 2011 - Mar. 2015

Quito, Ecuador

- Data analysis and report drafting for applied research and policy projects including:
  - Analysis of oil income distribution in Ecuador.
  - Evaluation of the degree of over-indebtedness within the Ecuadorian Financial System.
  - Sector Policy Note of the Financial System of Ecuador and Panama.
  - Impact of the potential loss of Ecuadorian exports' preferential access to USA and EU markets.
  - Economic appraisal and impact evaluation methodology for a financial inclusion programme.
  - Revision of the Inter-sectoral National Strategy for Integral Early Childhood Development.
- Database management: Central Bank, National Accounts, Financial System databases, Household Surveys, Labour Force Surveys, Commodity prices, among others.

---

**RESEARCH****Working Papers**

- "Immigration, Parenthood and Child Penalties"

*Abstract: In this study, I analyse 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 labour 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 Labour 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 Labour Market outcomes: Evidence from Spain" (Abstract [link](#))

## 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"

## PRE-DOCTORAL PUBLICATIONS

---

**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)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

**Universidad Carlos III de Madrid** 2019-2022

- *Graduate TA:* Macroeconomics, Econometrics.
- *Undergraduate:* Econometric Techniques (Time Series), Quantitative Microeconomics (Microeconometrics), Applied Economics, Introduction to Mathematics for Economics.
- Vice Dean's letter for teaching excellence: Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022.

**Universidad de las Américas** 2018

- Main Instructor: Advanced Econometrics, International Trade.

## COMPUTER SKILLS

---

- STATA, R, EViews, Gretl, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Excel.
- Python: PhD module at Tor Vergata University of Rome.

## LANGUAGES

---

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

## ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

---

### Presentations:

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

### Training:

- CRC TR 224 Bonn-Mannheim Summer School: IV and Empirical Bayes. Germany. 2023.
- The Economics of Crime over Time and Space. University of Southampton. 2022
- HCEO-FAIR Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality. NHH Norwegian School of Economics & HCEO-University of Chicago. Bergen, Norway. 2022.
- CEMFI: *New Developments in the Econometrics of Heterogeneous Workers and Firms*. Madrid, Spain. 2022
- SAEe PhD School, Universitat de Barcelona, School of Economics. 2021.

### Other:

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

## REFEREE EXPERIENCE

---

European Economic Review, Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics, ACI Avances en Ciencias e Ingenierías USFQ

## POLICY REPORTS AND PRESS

---

### 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.

### Press: *Revista Gestión, Economía y Sociedad*

-"Trabajo Infantil: ¿Qué Piensan los Padres?¿Qué dicen los hijos?" (Analysis of Child Labour). No.250, April 2015.

-"Desarrollo económico y lactancia materna ¿tenemos la fórmula correcta?" (Economic Development and Breastfeeding. Are we using the correct formula?) with Roberto Mosquera. No.237, April 2014.

-"El país en el que vive la Megan" (Evolution of Key Social and Economic Indicators between 2007 and 2013) with Daniela Anda. No.236, February 2014.

-"Brasil, ¿mercado para el banano ecuatoriano?" with Mateo Samaniego. No.238, May 2014.

-"Exportaciones crecen pero siguen concentradas" (Growing exports remain concentrated) with Mateo Samaniego. No.231, September 2013.

## LEADERSHIP & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

---

- Chevening Scholarship, International Leadership Programme. London, UK. 2016-2017
- Cofounder & Partner, Bloomsbury Policy Group: independent, non-partisan organisation with a mission to promote innovative and evidence-based policymaking in Latin America. 2017-present.
- Member of the organising team of "De emprendedora a empresaria" (*Entrepreneur to Businesswoman*), within the project "Mujer Emprende" sponsored by the U.S. Embassy. 2014.
- Member of the "Junior World Entrepreneurship Forum" organised by the Chamber of Commerce of Quito, Startups & Ventures and Universidad de las Américas. 2011.
- Member of the Economics Club. Universidad de las Américas.
- Volunteer at a Literacy Programme for seniors, Quito, Ecuador. 2008-2009.
- Volunteer for a Reforestation Programme at Itchimbia Park, Quito, Ecuador. 2008-2009.