

María Hernandez-de-Benito

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Department of Economics, Georgetown University

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JOB MARKET

Placement director: Susan Vroman, vromans@georgetown.edu, +1 (202) 687 - 6024

Graduate Student Coordinator: Julius Shapiro, js3900@georgetown.edu, +1 (202) 687 - 6260

Visa status: Spain citizenship, US F-1 Student visa

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, Georgetown University, Washington DC	2015 - 2021 (Expected)
MA Economics, New York University, NY	2011 - 2013
BS Economics, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain	2007 - 2011

RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary fields: applied microeconomics, development economics

Secondary fields: household economics, gender, crime

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Maloof Fellowship, Georgetown University	2020 - 2021
Doctoral Candidate Fellowship, Center for Global Development	Summer 2019
PhD Fellowship, Georgetown University	2015 - 2020
Academic Award for Excellence in Microeconomics, New York University	Spring 2012
Graduate Studies Scholarship, Bank of Spain	2011 - 2013
Research Scholarship at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain Ministry of Education	2010 - 2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Economic Statistics, Instructor, Georgetown University	Summer 2020
Economic Statistics, Teacher Assistant, Georgetown University	Spring 2019, Spring 2020
Econometrics (masters), Teacher Assistant, Georgetown University	Fall 2019
Data Analysis (masters), Teacher Assistant, Georgetown University	Fall 2018
Development Economics, Teacher Assistant, Georgetown University	Spring 2018
Introduction to Econometrics, Teacher Assistant, Georgetown University	Fall 2017
PhD 1st year official tutor, Georgetown University	Fall 2016-Spring 2017

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

Senior Research Associate: COVID-19 Gendered Impacts, Innovations for Poverty Actions	Present
Research Assistant, Prof. Garance Genicot, Georgetown University	2017 - 2019
Field work in Tanzania, Georgetown University	2017 - 2018
Analyst, NERA Economics Consulting (New York, USA)	2013 - 2015
Economics Intern, Latam. Roubini Global Economics (New York, USA)	2012 - 2013

Summer Analyst at Market Risk Management and Analysis, Goldman Sachs (New York, USA)	2012
Research Assistant, Prof. Luis C. Corchon, Universidad Carlos III Madrid (Spain)	2010-2011
Microfinance and Social Business Internship, Hindusthan Microfinance LTD (Mumbai, India)	2010

SEMINARS

Georgetown University, Washington DC	2020
Center for Global Development, Internal Research Seminar, Washington DC	2019
WZB Berlin Social Center, IPI Brownbag Series, Berlin	
Mortara International Georgetown University, Washington DC	

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS (INCLUDING SCHEDULED*)

Spanish Economic Association Symposium*	2020
Ridge Political Economy of Conflict and Crime workshop*	
Southern Economic Association*	
Economics PhD Conference, University of Warwick	
Bolivian Conference on Development Economics	
IPWSD, Columbia University	
Southern Economic Association	2019
Sustainability and Development Conference, University of Michigan	
SEBOL Development Studies Workshop	
GCER, Georgetown University	

JOURNAL REFEREE ACTIVITIES

Economic Development and Cultural Change

SKILLS

STATA, R, SAS, Latex, GIS, Survey Solutions, MS Office

Spanish (native speaker); English (advanced proficiency); French (medium proficiency).

REFERENCES

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

Garance Genicot	Martin Ravallion	Andrew Zeitlin
Professor of Economics	Professor of Economics	Assistant Professor
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OTHER PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

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Exeter University	NERA Economics Consulting
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RESEARCH

The Effect of Violent Crime on Intra-household Resource Allocation and Bargaining Power (Job Market Paper)

This paper studies the effects of violent crime on household expenditures and intra-household bargaining power by exploiting the unexpected and geographically heterogeneous rise in drug-related violence in Mexico in the late 2000s. I estimate a household demand model using a panel survey of Mexican households. The results show that the escalation in violence increased the expenditure share of male private goods, at the expense of food and other household necessities. These findings would typically be interpreted as a deterioration in women's bargaining power. But changes in local violence may have also affected consumption preferences. To show the results can be explained by changes in bargaining power, I complement the analysis with three empirical exercises. First, I show the results are heterogeneous in line with changes in women's outside options. Second, I compute the effect of violence on intra-household resource shares, a proxy of bargaining power, within a structural model that allows for violence to affect both preference and bargaining power parameters. The structural analysis confirms the negative impact on women's control over the household budget. Finally, an estimation of changes in self-reported decision-making power further confirms the findings.

Violent Crime And Marriage Markets: Evidence from the Mexican Drug War

This paper examines the effects of violent crime on marriage markets during the 2007-2012 Mexican drug war. I first develop a theoretical framework to provide an intuitive explanation of why increases in violence can lead to changes in marital outcomes. Empirically, I use data from the Mexican 2000 and 2010 censuses to analyze the effect on marital status by gender and age cohort. To study changes in assortative matching, I use marriage-and divorce-level data obtained from the whole universe of marriage certificates collected by the Mexican Civil Registration Office. The results suggest increases in violence have decreased women's age of marriage, increased marital age gaps, and increased divorce rates. Both a low age of marriage and large age gaps have been associated in multiple settings with a variety of negative outcomes for women. Heterogeneous effects on divorce also suggest women's voice within marriages may have been weakened, at least in those places where opportunities for women outside the household are limited.

Women's Land Rights and Village Councils in Tanzania (with Garance Genicot, Submitted)

This paper studies the land property rights of married women using a diagnostic survey on women's land property rights and Village Councils in rural Tanzania (VILART). Our paper provides evidence that, despite statutory laws providing for gender neutral rights, customary patrilineal practices favoring men still play a large role in rural Tanzania. Women in our sample own little property independently of their husbands which puts them at particular risk of property deprivation in the event of divorce or widowhood. We find that sons are more likely than daughters to inherit land, and women's inheritance expectations are affected by the gender of their children. In addition, women's inheritance rights remain fragile against claims from male members of the deceased husband's clan. We show that village leaders of both genders have non-gender neutral views, and are therefore likely to reinforce traditional patrilineal practices.

First Born Girls and Family Structure: Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa (with Garance Genicot)

This paper documents how the gender of the first child affects family structure in sub-Saharan Africa. Using DHS data, we study the impact of the gender of the first child on the likelihood of having an absentee father, the probability of ever been married, being in a polygamous relationship and remaining married in sub-Saharan Africa. Next, we combine these data with information on ancestral anthropological and cultural practices of the ethnic group to which the woman belongs. This will allow us to relate the effect of the gender of the first child to traditional practices.