

# María Hernandez-de-Benito

[www.mariahernandezdebenito.com](http://www.mariahernandezdebenito.com)

Department of Economics, Georgetown University

+1 347-856-8415 ♦ mh1543@georgetown.edu

## 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)

Dissertation title: *Essays on gender and development economics*

Committee: *Garance Genicot, Martin Ravallion, Andrew Zeitlin*

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, labor and demographic economics

## WORKING PAPERS

---

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

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

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

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

## 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

## 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

## 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

## 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

## 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

Professor of Economics

Department of Economics

Georgetown University

+1 202-687-7144

garance.genicot@georgetown.edu

Martin Ravallion

Professor of Economics

Department of Economics

Georgetown University

+1 202-340-0134

mr1185@georgetown.edu

Andrew Zeitlin

Assistant Professor

McCourt School of Public Policy

Georgetown University

+1 202-687-2938

az332@georgetown.edu

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

---

Julian Jamison  
Professor of Economics  
Exeter University  
+44 (0) 1392 722256  
J.Jamison@exeter.ac.uk

Ramsey Shehadeh  
Managing Director  
NERA Economics Consulting  
New York  
+1 212-345-6089  
ramsey.shehadeh@nera.com

## 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.