

Matías Villalba Ortega

Github: github.com/mvillalba
LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/matiasvillalbaortega](https://www.linkedin.com/in/matiasvillalbaortega)

Email: matias.villalba.ortega@gmail.com
Twitter: twitter.com/OrtegaVillalba
Phone: +51 946282000

Undergraduate student majoring in Economics at Universidad del Pacífico (Perú) expected to graduate on July 2024. Currently in my final semester having already successfully defended my thesis and completed heavy coursework. Keen interest in academia, particularly in topics of development economics, machine learning, and econometrics.

EDUCATION

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology | Online |
| ▪ <i>MicroMasters Program in Data, Economics, and Development Policy</i> | <i>Feb 2022 - To Date</i> |
| <i>Courses: Data Analysis for Social Scientists, Designing and Running Randomized Evaluations, Microeconomics</i> | |
| Universidad del Pacífico | Lima, Perú |
| ▪ <i>School of Economics and Finance - Economics Major</i> | <i>Mar 2017 - To Date</i> |
| <i>Courses: Causal Inference and ML, Machine Learning for Economists, Econometrics II, Mathematics IV, Real and Convex Analysis</i> | |
| Colegio de la Inmaculada | Lima, Perú |
| ▪ <i>Primary and Secondary Level</i> | <i>Mar 2004 - Dic 2016</i> |

SKILL SUMMARY

- **Software:** Stata, Python, Julia, R, EViews, LaTeX, Git, Office 365, Power BI, Power Automate, MS Azure
- **Languages:** Spanish (Native), English (Advanced)
- **Soft Skills:** Writing, Public Speaking, Adaptability, Organization, Critical Thinking

PUBLICATIONS

- **El efecto de la flexibilización de la contratación pública sobre su eficiencia: evidencia del caso peruano durante la pandemia.**
To be published in *Economía Aplicada: Ensayos de Investigación Económica 2023*. Universidad del Pacífico, 2026.
 - Selected as one of the top undergraduate theses for inclusion in an annual book highlighting exceptional research.
 - Advisor: Alberto Chong (Georgia State University)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **Research Assistant to Manuel Barrón*** Lima, Perú
Centro de Investigación de la Universidad del Pacífico *Sep 2023 - To Date*
 - **Details:** Assisted with the development of a randomized control trial studying the effect of homophily on academic outcomes within student social networks. *Researcher at CIUP and full time professor at Universidad del Pacífico. PhD in Agriculture & Resource Economics at UC Berkeley.
 - **Achievements and responsibilities:**
 - Designed and conducted baseline and endline surveys, critical for the project’s data collection.
 - Utilized Stata for rigorous cleaning and analysis of survey and large administrative datasets (+250k observations).
 - Created comprehensive tables in LaTeX, along with insightful figures.
- **Research Assistant to Edgar Castro†** Remote
George Mason University and Inter-American Development Bank *Feb 2023 - Dec 2023*
 - **Details:** Assisted with multiple concurrent projects in political economy, primarily focusing on impact evaluation studies analyzing the effects of extreme COVID-19 policies in Colombia and Chile. †Doctoral student at GMU and Research Fellow at the IDB.
 - **Achievements and responsibilities:**
 - Utilized Stata and Python for web-scraping and complex data cleaning of massive government datasets (+2M observations).
 - Used OCR tools in Python for large-scale text extraction.
 - Fine-tuned and applied LLM for systematic entity identification and extraction, crucial to the project’s methodology.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Financial Planning Intern** Lima, Perú
Alicorp S.A.A. *Aug 2022 - Apr 2023*
- **Lift Operator (Part-time)** California, EEUU
Boreal Ridge Corporation *Dec 2018 - Mar 2019*

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

- **Lima ‘2023 Summer School in Economics** Lima, Perú
Participant *Mar 2023*
Courses: Machine Learning for Economics, Diff in Diff: foundations and new methodology, Advanced Mathematics for Economics
 - **Details:** Organized by the Lima School of Economics (LimaSE) and UBC Vancouver School of Economics (VSE)
- **Forum: How to tackle corruption? Reflections and proposals from university students** Lima, Peru
Invited panelist *Nov 2021*
 - **Details:** Organized by the Center for Ethics and Social Responsibility (CERS), the Cultural Center of Universidad del Pacífico, and the Embassy of Sweden.