

# Monica Mogollon Plazas

ROBERT S. MCNAMARA FELLOW · DIME-THE WORLD BANK

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## Education

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Ph.D. Candidate in Economics	Rutgers University	2022 (Expected)
MSc. Economics	Universidad Nacional de Colombia	2013
BA Economics	Universidad Nacional de Colombia	2010

**Research Fields :** Economics of education, public economics  
development economics

## Research Experience

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RSMFP Research Fellow	The World Bank, Development Impact Evaluation Unit	2021-present
Research Assistant	Laura Cuesta, School of Social Work, Rutgers University	2018-2021
Research Assistant	Milagros Nores, National Institute for Early Education	2020-2021
Research Fellow	Research Department, Inter-American Development Bank	2015-2016

## Research Papers

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### PUBLICATIONS

Who's calling? The effect of phone calls and personal interaction on tax compliance, ( with Daniel Ortega and Carlos Scartascini) *International Tax and Public Finance*, (2021) 28:1302–1328

### WORKING PAPERS

**Job Market Paper** Ticket to the middle class? Long term effects of Public Universities on Labor market and Financial outcomes, (with Christian Posso) , November 2021

Food assistance and mobility during COVID-19 lockdown, (with Juan Mogollon and Catalina Villamil), 2021 *UNDP LAC Working Papers series*

Trends, Prevalence, and Correlates of Multiple-Partner Fertility in Colombia, (with Laura Cuesta) 2021, under submission.

Grandparents' Childcare and Female Labor Supply: Evidence from a Social Pension Program in Colombia 2020.

## Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

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- 2021 **Peter Asch Memorial Scholarship** Department of Economics, Rutgers University
- Small Grant** Center for Latin American Studies, Rutgers University
- 2020 **Small Grant** Colombian Institute for the Assessment of Education
- 2019 **Price Theory Summer Camp** University of Chicago Becker Friedman Institute
- Off-Campus Dissertation Development Award** Rutgers University, The Graduate School
- 2016 **Fulbright Scholarship for PhD Studies** Fulbright and Colciencias Colombia
- Scholarship for PhD Studies** Central Bank of Colombia
- 2010 **Teaching Scholarship for Master Students** National University of Colombia

## Conference Presentations

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### PRESENTING AUTHOR

- 2022 **Scheduled** APPAM Fall Research Conference, PAA Annual Conference, Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Annual Conference
- 2021 SEA Annual Conference, Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) Annual Meeting, UNU-WIDER Development Conference, Graduate Students in Economics of Education, Red de Investigadores de Economía, Colombia, Third workshop in urban and regional economics

### COAUTHOR PRESENTING

- 2021 5th International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP5)  
2019 PAA Annual Conference

## Teaching Experience

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- Spring 2021 **Industrial organization** Teaching Assistant, Rutgers University  
Fall 2021 **Game Theory** Teaching Assistant, Rutgers University  
Summer 2019 **Labor Economics** Instructor, Rutgers University  
2014 **Principles of Economics** Instructor, CESA School of Business  
2011-2012 **Economic History** Teaching assistant, National University of Colombia

*Bogota,  
Colombia*

## Professional Experience

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| Consultant                      | Inter American Development Bank          | 2013      |
| Analyst and Project Coordinator | Econometria Consultores, Bogota Colombia | 2011-2015 |

## Skills

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**Statistical Packages** Stata, ARCGIS **Languages** R, Python **Tools** Github

## References

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## Abstracts

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### **Ticket to the middle class? Long term effects of Public Universities on Labor market and Financial outcomes,**(with Christian Posso). Job Market Paper

We construct a novel data set to estimate the causal impact of selective college education on asset accumulation and consumer credit usage, as well as short and long-term effects on earnings. Our empirical strategy is a fuzzy regression discontinuity design employing the admission policies of a selective public university in Colombia. Scoring above the admission threshold has no short-term effect but raises access to consumer credit by 4 percent and earnings by 24 percent eight years after college entry. While the gains in consumer credit flatten in middle career, earnings returns keep growing up to 35 percent 16 years after graduation. We show that the impacts on asset acquisition take longer to materialize since admission raises the likelihood of homeownership by 12 percent when students are 35 years old. The results on financial indicators shed light on the impact on college education on dimensions such as asset accumulation and financial inclusion describing economic wellbeing in the long term.

### **Food assistance and mobility during COVID-19 lockdown,** (with Juan Mogollon and Catalina Villamil)

This paper examines the effects of emergency food assistance on human mobility patterns between March and August of 2020. We study a large public-private initiative in Colombia, created to deliver food aid to one million households at risk of falling into poverty and previously not included in other assistance programs. The impact is estimated using the quasi-exogenous roll out of the food distribution within municipalities. The high-frequency data set links detailed daily deliveries with georeferenced food recipients' location and mobility indicators measuring out-of-home events. This information is then aggregated at the urban tract level. The estimation includes a rich set of fixed effects using sector, time and department-week trends. The main findings indicate that receiving food assistance delivered to the home reduced out-of-home mobility by 1.6 percent during a two-week window. The estimated coefficient after that window is imprecise, suggesting a short-term effect. The program reduced out-of-home activities by reducing visits to grocery stores. Delivering food assistance proved to be an effective intervention to reduce population movement, thus helping households in distress comply with national lockdown orders.

### **Grandparents' Childcare and Female Labor Supply: Evidence from a Social Pension Program in Colombia**

This paper examines how grandparents' availability for childcare affects maternal labor supply outcomes in Colombia. To do this, I use the eligibility for Colombia Mayor Program (Old Adults Program), a social pension program transferring income to poor adults in retirement age. For inter-generational households, the eligibility is discontinuous as a function of the predicted poverty index score because the program is targeted to households below a certain score threshold. RD estimates show reduced labor participation of grandparents in extended families scoring just below the cutoff. Using this result, this paper studies the effect of additional grandparent time for childcare on labor market participation for mother with children living in extended families around the threshold. I find a positive point estimate of 5.4 percentage points for mothers, with a higher effect for mothers with children between 0 and 5 years old and households with grandmothers. Grandparental support is still an important source of low-cost childcare in developing economies. Therefore, social pension programs affecting retirement decisions may have unintended benefits in labor participation rates for mothers with young children.