

Monica Mogollon Plazas

Robert S. McNamara Fellow at DIME

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Education

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

Primary: public economics, economic of education, development economics.

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

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

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

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

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

Work in Progress

"Threat, credibility and tax collection: evidence for urban property taxes," (with Daniel Ortega and Carlos Scartascini)

"Public universities and short-cycle tertiary programs"

Employment

RSMFP Fellow, The World Bank, Development Impact Evaluation (full time)

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 Assistant, Research Department, Inter-American Development Bank (full time)

2015-2016

Project Coordinator and Quantitative Analyst, Econometria Consultores, Colombia (full time)

2011-2015

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant. Industrial organization (Undergraduate), Rutgers University	2020-2021
Instructor, Labor Economics (Undergraduate), Rutgers University	Summer 2019
Instructor, Principles of Economics, CESA School of Business, Bogota, Colombia	2014
Teaching Assistant, Economic History, National University of Colombia	2011-2012

Fellowships and Awards

Peter Asch Memorial Scholarship, Department of Economics, Rutgers University	2021
In recognition of an outstanding student working on her dissertation in applied microeconomics	
University of Chicago Becker Friedman Institute Price Theory Summer Camp	2019
Fulbright-Colciencias Colombia Scholarship for PhD Studies	2016-2020
Central Bank of Colombia Scholarship for PhD Studies	2016-2020
Teaching Scholarship MSc. Economics, National University of Colombia	2011-2012

Research Grants

Small research grant Colombian Institute for the Assessment of Education. (\$2500)	2020
Off-Campus Dissertation Development Award, Rutgers University (\$1000)	2019
Center for Latin American Studies, Rutgers University, Small Grant (\$1500)	2019, 2021

Conference Presentations

<i>Ticket to the middle class? Long term effects of Public Universities on Labor market and Financial outcomes</i>	
Southern Economic Association SEA 91st Annual Meeting (scheduled)	Nov 2021
LACEA-LAMES Annual Meeting	Oct 2021
Red de Investigadores de Economia, Colombia	Sep 2021
Graduate Students in Economics of Education, PhD-Economics Virtual Seminar	Sep 2021
<i>Food assistance and mobility during COVID-19 lockdown</i>	
Southern Economic Association SEA 91st Annual Meeting (scheduled)	Nov 2021
WIDER Development Conference 2021, Poster Session	Sept 2021
Third workshop in urban and regional economics. Bogota, Colombia	June 2021
<i>Trends, Prevalence, and Correlates of Multiple-Partner Fertility in Colombia</i> (presented Laura Cuesta)	
5th International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP5), Barcelona.	July 2021
Annual Meeting, Population Association of America. Austin, TX	April 2019

References

Jennifer Hunt	Ira Gang	Maria Rosales
Professor of Economics	Professor of Economics	Assistant Professor
Department of Economics	Department of Economics	Department of Economics
Rutgers University	Rutgers University	Rutgers University-Newark
prof.jennifer.hunt@gmail.com	gang@rutgers.edu	maria.rosales@rutgers.edu

Dissertation working papers

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.