

NATALIA I. VALDEZ GONZALEZ

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Agricultural Economics
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- ✧ Behavioral & Experimental Economics
- ✧ Food Economics
- ✧ Policy

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- ✧ Lab Manager at the Human Behavior Lab, Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University. September 2018 – Present.
- ✧ Graduate Assistant Researcher, Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University. September 2016 – Present.
- ✧ Research Associate at the Center on Conflict and Development, Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University. September 2014 - September 2016.
- ✧ Economist Intern, Office of Economics, United States International Trade Commission. June 2013 – August 2013.

EDUCATION

- ✧ Ph.D., Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University, 2022
Chair: Marco A. Palma
- ✧ M.I.A., International Development and Economic Policy, Texas A&M University, 2014
- ✧ B.A., Economics and French, Texas A&M University, 2012

WORKING PAPERS

- [1] **Valdez Gonzalez, N.I.**, Kee, J.Y., Palma, M.A., and J.R. Pruitt. 2022. “The Relationship between Monetary Incentives, Status, and Physical Activity.” *American Journal of Preventive Medicine Focus*, invited to revise and resubmit
- [2] Liu, H., He, Y., **Valdez Gonzalez, N.I.**, Choubey, A., Li, Y., Meng, Y., Liu, H., Tu, L., Zhang, N., Yin, N., Conde, K.M., Wang, M., Bean, J.C., Han, J., Yan, Z., Scarcelli, N.A., Sidell Potts, C.H., Yang, Y., Tong, Q., Sun, Z., Wang, C., Cai, X., Lu, L., Zhu, C., Shu, G., Qu, N., Palma, M.A., and Y. Xu. 2022. “A retina-originated neural circuit transmits light signals to suppress feeding.”
- [3] **Valdez Gonzalez, N.I.**, Palma, M.A., and A.L. Brown. “Social stigma and subsequent competitive behavior.”

Other Articles

- [1] Kibriya, S., Tkach, B., Ahn, J., **Valdez Gonzalez, N.**, Xu, Z., & Y. Zhang. 2016. “The Effects of School-Related Gender-Based Violence on Academic Performance: Evidence from Botswana, Ghana, and South Africa.” USAID.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- [1] “Effect of light on food consumption and preferences” (with M.A. Palma)
- [2] “Fairness, transparency, and productivity” (with V. Vitaku)
- [3] “Preferences for competitiveness at varying levels” (with M.A. Palma)

SELECTED ABSTRACTS

- [1] “Social stigma and subsequent competitive behavior” (with M.A. Palma and A.L. Brown) (**Job Market Paper**)

Inequality gives rise to the emergence of social status. Some are driven to showcase a desirable status, while others experience stigma from low status environments. We study how eligibility for a social benefit influences preferences for competitiveness. We exogenously manipulate the benefit eligibility in which we expanded the eligibility criteria. Expanding the eligibility criteria did not change the competitiveness of the low performing group, but the middle-income group was affected by the eligibility of the benefits with a 51% reduction in competitiveness. We conclude that the social benefit eligibility reduces competitiveness across treatments for the middle performing group.

- [2] “The Relationship between Monetary Incentives, Status, and Physical Activity.” (with J.Y. Kee, M.A. Palma, & J.R. Pruitt) (*Under Review*)

We conduct an experiment to understand the role of social status and monetary incentives as motivation to increase physical activity. We distributed pedometer watches and assigned experimental conditions related to social status and monetary incentives. We find that social status alone does not induce a change in physical activity, however, when combined with monetary incentives, we find a heterogeneous effect. Individuals with low physical activity increase their steps by 12%, while those with high physical activity decrease their steps by 25%. Our results call for a cautionary approach for analyzing the role of social status for physical activity intervention programs.

GRANTS

- [1] Graduate Student Travel Grant, \$250, November 2022
- [2] Graduate Student Travel Grant, \$250, October 2021
- [3] Graduate Student Travel Grant, \$350, July 2021
- [4] The International Foundation for Research in Experimental Economics (IFREE) Small Grants Program, \$10,000, October 2019

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- [1] Agricultural and Applied Economics Association 2022, Anaheim, CA
- [2] Economic Sciences Association North America 2021, Tucson, AZ
- [3] Economic Sciences Association Around-the-Clock meetings 2021, virtual (moderator)
- [4] Agricultural and Applied Economics Association 2021, Austin, TX (moderator)
- [5] Southern Agricultural Economics Association 2020, Louisville, KY (moderator)

TEACHING

- ✧ Co-Instructor for Research Methodology (AGEC 607), Department of Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University, Spring 2021
- ✧ Teaching Assistant for Food Security, Climate, and Conflict (AGEC 489/689), Department of Agricultural Economics and Texas A&M University, Spring 2016, 2017
- ✧ Foreign Language Leader for French, Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University, Spring 2014

- ✧ Teaching Assistant for French, Department of International Studies at Texas A&M University, 2010-2012

HONORS & AWARDS

- ✧ 2022 AAEA Travel Scholarship, 2022
- ✧ Graduate Research Assistantship, 2016-present
- ✧ ConDev Graduate Research Fellow, 2016
- ✧ Robert G. Cherry Graduate Fellowship, 2017-2018
- ✧ George and Barbara Bush Fellowship, 2013-2014
- ✧ Robert A Mosbacher, Sr Internship Award, 2013
- ✧ Bush School general scholarship, 2013

SKILLS

- ✧ Software: Stata, Excel, Latex, oTree, iMotions, Python, R
- ✧ Languages: Native English and Spanish, Advanced French

REFERENCES

Marco A. Palma
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