Oscar Barriga-Cabanillas

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Profile

I am an economist specialized in poverty measurement, impact evaluation, and data science. My work combines household surveys and big data methods to study the impact of social programs. Most of my projects have involved a component of capacity building, training at the local and national government level, and result dissemination. My professional experience spans several developing countries, with projects in Colombia, Haiti, Mexico, and Paraguay.

I am proficient in several programming languages including Stata, Python, R, GIS, and Git. Besides data analysis, I developed several packages to estimate poverty, climate indicators, and applied machine learning algorithms to create small-area predictions of income and poverty using cellphone data. You can also check my academic CV in this link

Education

University of California, Davis *Davis, CA USA*
Ph.D. in Agricultural & Resource Economics 2021
Dissertation: Essays on using cellphone data for development
Areas of specialization: Development Economics, Public Economics, Applied Econometrics

Universidad de Los Andes *Bogota, Colombia*
M.A. and B.A. in Economics Sept. 2012

Work Experience

The World Bank *Washington DC, United States*
Short Term Consultant 2021
- Study on the impacts of mobile network access on agricultural price dispersion in Africa

USAID *Davis, United States*
Consultant 2018
- Impact evaluation of information dissemination campaign to promote mobile money adoption in Haiti
- Coordinated between the different areas of the cellphone provider to launch the project
- Team under supervision: 4 members

The World Bank *Washington DC, United States*
Short Term Consultant 2016-2017
- Study on the effects of local market concentration on productivity in Mexico

The World Bank *Washington DC, United* States
Junior Professional Associate Sept. 2012 − Feb. 2015
- Core member of the Team for Statistical Development Group
- Analysis of social indicators across the region
- Designed tools to assure data quality and reproducibility of social indicators in the region
- Worked on designing an online platform to make data available to the public: LAC Equity Lab

Colombia National Planning Department *Bogota, Colombia*
Consultant Apr. 2011 − Sept. 2012
- Developed a rural development plan for the western region
- Coordinated action plan with different entities at the national and local level

Econometria SA   *Bogota,Colombia*
Consultant   Apr. 2010 − Apr. 2011
- Impact evaluation of national social programs aimed to reduce rural poverty
- Design and coordinate several data collection efforts

Languages and Computer Skills

Statistical Packages: Python, R, Stata, LaTeX, QGIS

Languages: Spanish (Native), English (Fluent), French (Read), Portuguese (Basic)

Peer-reviewed Articles

"Fitting and interpreting correlated random coefficient (CRC) models using Stata." (with Tjernstrom, Michler and Michuda)
The Stata Journal, 18(1):159−173, 2018

"Inequality Stagnation in Latin America in the Aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis."
Review of Development Economics, 21: 157-181, 2017

"Is Uruguay More Resilient This Time? Distributional Impacts of a Crisis Similar to the 200102 Argentine Crisis." (With Lugo, Rodriguez-Castelanm Nielsen and Zanneti)
Journal of Banking and Financial Economics, 2 (4): 64−90, 2015

Book Chapters

"Poverty and Shared Prosperity in Uruguay" (with Gindelsky, Lugo and Rodriguez-Castelan)
Shared Prosperity and Poverty Eradication in Latin America and the Caribbean. World Bank. Chapter 9

Working Papers

"Liquidity or Convenience? Heterogeneous Impacts of Mobile Airtime Loans on Communication Expenditure" Job Market Paper (with Lybbert)

"A Group Random Coefficient Approach to Modeling Heterogeneity in Technology Adoption."
(with Tjernstrom, Ghanem, Lybbert, Michler and Michuda)

"The potential and limitations of big data in development economics: The use of cell phone data for the targeting and impact evaluation of a cash transfer program in Haiti"
(with Blumenstock, Lybbert and Putman)

"Sharing resources in times of COVID: Lump Sum Transfers using mobile money in Haiti"
(with Michuda)

"The Effects of Local Market Concentration and International Competition on Firm Productivity: Evidence from Mexico." (with Rodriguez-Castelan and Lopez-Calva) Revise & Resubmit in World Development

"Can information drive adoption of mobile money? A field experiment in Haiti"

"Improved Seed Adoption and Climate Change: Hybrid Maize in Ethiopia"
(with Chiarella, Correa and Michuda)

Programming

"PROSPERITY: A Stata module to compute the Shared Prosperity Convergence Index"

"Fitting and interpreting correlated random-coefficient models using Stata"

Other Experience

University of California, Davis
- *Main Instructor:* Development Economics (undergraduate)
- *Teaching Assistant:* Econometrics (graduate), Microeconomics

Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in Social Sciences
- Code instructors in Stata and Python on several workshops in Berkeley (California) and Bogota (Colombia)

Fellowships and Awards

Henry A. Jastro Graduate Research Award   2019
Research grant
Digital Credit Observatory-Center for Effective Global Action (with Travis Lybbert)   2018
Grant to evaluate the welfare impacts of the introduction of Digital Credit in Haiti.
Miguel Velez Fellowship   2017
Given annually to doctoral students judged to display scholarly promise
Blum Family Foundation   2017
Research grant
Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences (BITSS)   2016
Research grant

Conferences

2021: PacDev annual meeting, TSE Economic Seminar

2020: AEA annual meeting

2019: Bogota Experimental Economics Conference

2018: The World Bank Jobs and Development Conference, AAEA annual meeting

2017: AAEA annual meeting.