

Rodrigo Azuero Melo

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Citizenship: Colombia. US Permanent Resident.

Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Pennsylvania, 2012-2017.
M.A. Economics, University of Pennsylvania, 2015.
M.A. Economics, Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, 2011.
B.Sc. Economics, *Cum Laude* (Top 3% GPA of last 5 years). Minor: History. Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, 2009.

Employment

Emory University. Department of Quantitative Theory and Methods. Visiting Assistant Professor. Fall 2019-Spring 2020.

Inter-American Development Bank: (Washington DC)

Economist. Fiscal Management Division. July 2017-current position (On leave Fall 2019-Spring 2020).

Team Leader: “Tax Policy, Informality, and Productivity in Latin America and the Caribbean?” \$185,000 grant.”

Team Leader: “Using Data Analytics to Improve Tax Compliance” \$85,000 grant.

Research and Teaching Fields

Labor Economics, Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Applied Econometrics

Publications

Schady, N; Azuero, R *et al.* (2015). “[Wealth Gradients in Early Childhood Cognitive Development in Five Latin American Countries](#)”. *Journal of Human Resources*, 50(2):446-463.

Working Papers

Azuero, R. (2019). “[Evaluating Early Childhood Policies: An Estimable Model of Family Child Investments](#)”.

Azuero, R. & Zarruk, D. (2019). “[The Effects of Student Loans on the Provision and Demand for Higher Education](#)”. [[slides](#)]

Work in Progress

[Are Medium Sized Businesses in Peru on the “Wrong” Side of the Laffer Curve?](#) (2019). With Alejandro Lagomarsino (Harvard University), Mariano Bosch (IDB).

[Optimal Taxation and Informality](#). (2019). With Juan Hernández (IDB) and Daniel Wills (Universidad de los Andes).

[Special Tax Regimes in Latin America and the Caribbean. Compliance, Social Protection, and Resource Misallocation](#). (2019). With Jesica Torres, Mariano Bosch, and Oliver Azuara.

[A Model of Value-Added Taxes](#). (2019). With David Zarruk (ITAM), and Daniel Wills (Universidad de los Andes).

[Productivity, Misallocation, and Special Tax Regimes in the Dominican Republic](#). (2019). With Mariano Bosch, Marvin Cardoza, and Dennis Sanchez.

Teaching Experience

Instructor:

Emory University. Department for Quantitative Theory and Methods. Introduction to Scientific Methods. (Fall, 2019).

Inter-American Development Bank: Machine Learning (Spring, 2019) [Link to course materials](#).

University of Pennsylvania: Introduction to Microeconomics (Summer, 2015)

Universidad de los Andes: Stata workshop (Spring, 2010)

Teaching Assistant:

University of Pennsylvania: Introduction to Microeconomics, Introduction to Statistics, Intermediate Microeconomics.

Universidad de los Andes: Econometrics for Impact Evaluation (Graduate level), Statistics I for Social Sciences, Integral Calculus, Microeconomics III, Differential Calculus, Game Theory, Introduction to Economic Theory (Graduate level),

Universidad Externado de Colombia: Introduction to Mathematics for Lawyers.

Presentations

2017-2019

Arizona State University, American Institutes for Research, Universidad del Rosario (Colombia), IMPAQ International, NERA Economic Consulting. Economics of Informality (Universidad del Rosario, Bogota); 1st Conference of Colombian Economics Meetings (Universidad de los Andes), Machine Learning Applications for Development (Inter-American Development Bank).

2014-2016

[EMCON](#): Empirics and Methods in Economics, Northwestern University., University of Pennsylvania: Empirical Micro Seminar. Universidad Católica de Chile. Workshop on Early Childhood Development. [ECONCON](#). Conference sponsored by Columbia University, New York University, Princeton University, University of Pennsylvania and Yale University. [LACEA](#): Latin American and Caribbean Economics Association Annual Meetings.

Student Advising

Graduate Program in Impact Evaluation. Universidad de los Andes

Rojas, L. A. & Casas, C. The Impact of “Comedores Comunitarios” on Nutritional Outcomes. Grade: 5.0/5.0

Grants

Inter-American Development Bank Economic Sector Works Research Grant.

Tax Policy, Informality, and Productivity in Latin America and the Caribbean?

Using Data Analytics to Improve Tax Compliance

School of Arts and Sciences Conference Grant. University of Pennsylvania. (2016).

Penn Institute for Economic Research. Stipend Matching Grant. (2015).

Latin American and the Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA). Grant to present at the annual LACEA meetings in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 2015.

Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA) Travel Grant. University of Pennsylvania. 2015.

Tilburg University study abroad program. Econometrics Certificate. (90% of tuition). 2008.

Honors, Awards, & Fellowships

Judith Rodin Fellow. Fellowship awarded to doctoral students in the Social Sciences who are committed to nation-building. 2016

University of Pennsylvania Fellowship. 2012-2017.

Cum Laude. Universidad de los Andes. Awarded to students with GPA located in the top 3% of the department during the last 5 years. 2009.

Professional Activities

Referee: *International Economic Review*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Economia*.

Book Reviewer: Universidad de los Andes, Economics

Languages

English (Fluent), Spanish (Native), French (Advanced)

Programming Skills

Fortran, Matlab, Python, Stata, R, Rcpp, C++, OpenMP, Julia, Cuda, SQL.

Software

[gmapsdistance](#): R-package to compute distance and travel time between multiple points using the Google Maps Distance API. 32,000 downloads.

[Rtauchen](#): R-package to discretize an AR(1) process following Tauchen (1986). A discrete Markov chain that approximates in the sense of weak convergence a continuous-valued univariate Autoregressive process of first order is generated. It is a popular method used in economics and in finance.

Certificates

Econometrics Certificate, Tilburg University, Spring 2008.

Machine Learning Certificate by Stanford University on Coursera. 2018.

Neural Networks and Deep Learning by deeplearning.ai on Coursera. 2019.

Additional Information

Github profile: <https://github.com/rodazuero>

Linkedin profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/rodrigo-azuero/>

Last updated: September 20, 2019