

Department of Economics
Emory University

October 24, 2024

Dear Hiring Committee Members,

I am writing to apply for the position of the Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics at Emory University. I am an applied microeconomist who integrates rigorous empirical methods to address pressing issues related to gender, conflict, and economic development. I will complete my Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in May 2025. I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to join your faculty. Given that my partner and I currently live in East Tennessee, I am particularly excited about the prospect of making a long-term contribution to both the university and the regional community.

My job market paper, “Effects of Military Bases on Women in Colombia,” co-authored with Felipe Parra, investigates the causal impacts of military base presence on sexual violence, fertility, and child support disputes in rural Colombia. Using a novel dataset constructed from various sources and employing an event-study approach, we leverage the temporal and geographical variation in military base placements driven by Colombia’s military expansion from 2000 to 2016. This allows us to identify the causal effects of military interventions, revealing a 72% increase in registered cases of sexual violence over 15 years. This research contributes to understanding the unintended consequences of state security interventions and provides critical insights for policymakers working in conflict-affected settings.

In the coming years, I will expand my research on gender disparities and conflict in developing economies. In Colombia, I will investigate the broader social impacts of military interventions, including effects on reproductive rights and educational outcomes. I am committed to securing funding from a diverse range of public, private, and non-profit sources, and will use external funding to support research assistants on my projects.

Mentorship is central to my commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion. I have actively mentored female Japanese students pursuing Ph.D. degrees, as well as supported students from African countries through the graduate application process as a mentor in the Graduate Applications International Network (GAIN). These experiences have shown me the transformative impact of providing guidance and support to underrepresented students in achieving their academic and professional aspirations.

Thank you for considering my application. I can be reached by telephone at +1 (917) 969-5420, and by email at sshibuya2@wisc.edu.

Sincerely,



Sakina Shibuya