

# SEBASTIAN CIFUENTES

UC San Diego, Rady School of Management  
9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093

Mobile: (858) 214-7539  
Email: [scifuentes@ucsd.edu](mailto:scifuentes@ucsd.edu)

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## Education

- Expected 2027 Finance PhD Candidate, UC San Diego, USA
- 2019 M.Sc. in Industrial Engineering, *summa cum laude*, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile
- 2019 Industrial Engineer Degree, Major in Mining Engineering, *summa cum laude*, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile

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## Research Interests

Entrepreneurship, Housing and Mortgage Markets, Homelessness.

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## Work In Progress

1. "When Entrepreneurs Move In: Evidence from North Carolina"

*Abstract:* This paper provides the first causal evidence that entrepreneurial activity diffuses through neighborhood ties. I exploit residential moves in North Carolina to study whether the arrival of an entrepreneurial neighbor increases business formation among incumbent residents. The analysis merges statewide business registrations, voter files, and property transaction data into a panel that links individuals to their neighbors and entrepreneurial outcomes over nearly two decades. Using a nearest-neighbor design with highly granular fixed effects, I find that exposure to entrepreneurial neighbors raises the probability of business entry by 4–9 percent within five years. Spillovers are stronger when incumbents and newcomers share gender, but not when they share race, suggesting that cross-racial exposure may help lower barriers to entrepreneurship for Black residents. Most effects occur in unincorporated, lower-cost businesses, while exposure to high-quality entrepreneurs is linked to a higher likelihood of starting incorporated firms. Finally, spillover intensity declines sharply with physical distance, with effects concentrated among immediate neighbors. These findings show that localized social interactions are an important channel through which entrepreneurship and economic opportunity spread.

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## Pre Doctoral Publications

2. "Expected prices, futures prices and time-varying risk premiums: The case of copper" with Gonzalo Corazar, Héctor Ortega and Eduardo S. Schwartz. *Resources Policy*, Vol. 69(7), pp. 101825, December 2020.

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## Fellowships and Awards

- 2024 Richard Libby Graduate Research Award (\$10,000), *UC San Diego*
- 2022-Present Rady Academic Year Fellowship, *UC San Diego*
- 2019 Best Mining Engineering Student, *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile*
- 2016-2019 Scholarship for Academic Excellence, *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile*
- 2012 - 2019 Scholarship for Academic Excellence, *Chilean Government*

## Courses Taught

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- 2022-Current      *UC San Diego*
- Collecting and Analyzing Financial Data, MFin course (TA for M. Reher)
  - Investments, International Finance, Behavioral Finance, and International Finance, MBA and MFin courses (TA for M. Warachka)
  - Financial Investments, UG course (TA for S. Banerjee)
  - Finance and Valuation in Corporate Finance, MBA and MFin courses (TA for W. Mullins)
  - Corporate Finance and Derivatives and Structured Finance, MFin courses (TA for B. Breon-Drish)
  - Investment Analysis, MFin course (TA for A. Timmermann)
- 2015-2018      *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.*
- Graduate and Undergraduate TA. Courses: Finance, Financial Management, Advanced Topics in Finance, Management and Organizational Behavior, Fundamentals of the Economy of Minerals, and Accounting.

## Other Academic Activities

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- Summer 2024      Graduate Student Researcher for Prof. Allan Timmermann, UCSD-Rady School of Management
- Summer 2024      Graduate Student Researcher for Prof. Samuel Bazzi, UCSD-School of Global Policy and Strategy
- Summer 2023      Graduate Student Researcher for Prof. W. Mullins and Prof. C. Avenancio Leon, UCSD-Rady School of Management
- March 2023      Assistant Coordinator in Finance Research Symposium in Honor of Bruce N. Lehmann. Spring JOIM Conference, UCSD-Rady School of Management
- Winter 2018      Participation as an assistant in the book Guzmán, J. I. (2019). *Fundamentos de economía minera (Spanish Edition)* (1st ed.). Reverté.
- March 2017      Participation in Minexcellence, 2<sup>nd</sup> International Seminar on Operational Excellence in Mining. Presenting: *Optimizing Fleet: Maintenance Strategy under Business Cycle Uncertainty*

## Professional Experience

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- 2020-2022      Senior Financial Engineer, *RiskAmerica-Chile*
- 2019-2020      Investment Analyst, *DVA Capital-Chile*
- 2018      Part Time Financial Engineer, *RiskAmerica-Chile*

## **Other Activities and Service**

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- 2024      Mentee for the Committee on Racial Diversity (CORD) from the American Finance Association (AFA). Mentor: Professor Philip Bond (Foster School of Business, University of Washington)
- 2018      Volunteer at Preuniversitario Social de Ingeniería UC as *Math Teacher*. Preparing students for their University Admissions Test
- 2017      Volunteer at La Protectora de la Infancia as *Math Teacher*. Organizing and conducting math classes for school teenagers from a vulnerable community.

## **Additional Information**

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- *Spoken Language:* Spanish (native), English (fluent)
- *Computing:* Python, R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, MySQL, SQL, MATLAB, PHP & Stata

## **Personal Information**

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Born: July 14, 1993. Citizenship: Chilean. Married