

Sergio Ernesto Barrera

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References & Letter Writers:

Mariacristina DeNardi, Thomas Sargent Professor of Economics, University of Minnesota, Main Advisor

Jeremy Lise, Carter Schwab Professor of Economics, University of Minnesota, Co Advisor

Abigail Wozniak, Director of the Opportunity and Inclusive Growth Institute, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Supervisor

Joseph Mullins, Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota, Committee Member

Education:

Ph. D. Economics, University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Department of Economics, Minneapolis MN
May 2022

M.A Economics, University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Department of Economics, Minneapolis MN
July 2020

B. A. Mathematics & Economics, Summa Cum Laude & Honors, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ
May 2016

A.A. Persian Farsi, Defense Language Institute, Monterey CA
July 2013

Thesis Title:

Background, Beliefs and Economic Outcomes: How Family and Peers Relate to Beliefs, Early Pregnancy, Crime and Labor Market Outcomes

Professional and Research Activities:

August 2022-Current: Assistant Professor of Economics, Virginia Tech, Department of Economics, Blacksburg VA.

June 2017-July 2022: Research Analyst Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Minneapolis MN.

June 2021-July 2021: Instructor, Minneapolis MN.

August 2017-May 2020 Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota, Department of Economics, Minneapolis MN.

January 2015 - May 2016: Undergraduate Teaching Coordinator, Math 100, University of Arizona, Department of Mathematics, Tucson AZ.

June 2015 - May 2016: Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of Arizona, Department of Economics, Tucson AZ.

January 2014 - January 2015: Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, University of Arizona, Department of Mathematics, Tucson AZ.

August 2008 - August 2013: Cryptologic Linguist, United States Marine Corps, 2nd Radio Bn, Camp Lejeune, NC.

Published Work:

Angrisani Marcos, Barrera Sergio, Blanco Luisa, Contreras Salvador. "The Racial/Ethnic Gap in Financial Literacy in the Population and by Income." Contemporary Economic Policy, 17 September 2020.

Kahn Justine, Barrera Sergio, Davila Randy, et al. "An Investigation of Toxicities and Survival in Hispanic Children and Adolescents with ALL: Results from ALL Consortium Protocol 05-001." Pediatric Blood and Cancer, 2017.

Working Papers:

Barrera Sergio, "Is College Worth it For Me? Beliefs, access to funding, and inequality in higher education." Work in Progress. Job Market Paper.

Barrera Sergio, "Learning from Your Environment: Do social networks predict beliefs and outcomes of teenage youth?" Work in Progress.

Barrera Sergio, Ferrara, Andreas, Fishback Price, Heggeness Misty. "Racial Inequities Among World War II Veterans in Old Age." Work in Progress.

Barrera Sergio, Heggeness Misty. "Determinants and Effects of Coresiding Parents on Single Moms." Work in Progress.

Honors Awards and Fellowships:

January 2023: American Society of Hispanic Economists Dissertation Award.

October 2022: ICTAS FY23 EFO-O Seed Grant Award, Virginia Tech with Susan Sajada. Blacksburg VA.

August 2022-Present: Diversity Initiative for Tenure in Economics Fellow.

July 2022: Review of Economics and Statistics NBER Summer Institute Fellowship. Cambridge MA.

Fall 2020: Tobin Project's Inequality and Decision Making Graduate Student Fellowship.

Summer 2020-Summer 2017: Beverly and Richard Fink Summer Research Fellowship, University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Minneapolis MN.

Fall 2016: Diversity of Views and Experiences Fellowship, University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Minneapolis MN.

April 2016: Outstanding Graduating Senior, Department of Economics, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ.

April 2016: Outstanding Senior Award, Department of Mathematics, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ.

January 2014 Martin L. Reff Award, Reffonomics.com, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ.

January 2012: Certificate of Commendation, United States Marine Corps, 2d Radio BN, Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan.

Seminars, Conferences and Events:

August 2022: Diversity Initiatives for Tenure in Economics Workshop 2022. Paper Presented: "Learning from Your Environment: Do social networks predict beliefs and outcomes of teenage youth?" JB Duke Hotel, Durham NC.

January 2022: Allied Social Sciences Association 2022. Session for the Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession. Paper Presented: "Is College Worth it For Me? Beliefs, access to funding, and inequality in higher education." Virtual

November 2021: Southern Economic Association Meeting 2021. Paper Presented: "Is College Worth it For Me? Beliefs, access to funding, and inequality in higher education." Houston TX.

July 2021: AEA Summer Mentoring Pipeline Conference- Presenter and Discussant for Mentee Presentations. Paper Presented: "Is College Worth it For Me? Beliefs, access to funding, and inequality in higher education." Virtual.

November 2020: Economy of Francesco: Participant in November 2020 event C02 of Inequalities Village, Virtual.

October 2020: Tobin Project's Inequality and Decision-Making Graduate Student Workshop, Cambridge MA.

June 2019: Participant of Economics & Catholic Social Thought: A Primer, organized by Lumen Christi Institute and Catholic Research Economist Discussion Organization, Jerusalem Israel.

March 2019: Midwest Economic Association. Presenter. Paper Presented: "Is College Worth it For Me? Beliefs, access to funding, and inequality in higher education." St Louis, MO

Summer 2015: Participant of Harvard Summer Research Program in Biostatistics and Computational Biology, T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University, Boston MA.

Referee Experience:

Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Editor: Sudipta Sarangi, Spring 2023.

China Economic Review, Editor: Suqin Ge, Spring 2022.

Review of Economic Dynamics, Editor: Mariacristina DeNardi, Fall 2019.

Economic Inquiry, Editor: Abigail Wozniak, Fall 2019.

Volunteering and Service Experiences

Spring 2023-Present: Financial Feasibility Working Group of the Access and Affordability Initiative, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA.

Fall 2022-Present: Applied Microeconomist Search Committee, Virginia Tech, Department of Economics, Blacksburg VA.

August 2002-Present: Undergraduate Committee. Virginia Tech, Department of Economics. Blacksburg VA.

August 2022: Presentation on “Impact of the Minimum Wage.” Virginia Latino/Latinx Advocacy Board. Blacksburg VA.

August 2021-January 2022: Volunteer, translator, and English Instructor: Afghan Refugee Resettlement. Catholic Charities La Crosse. Ft McCoy WI.

January 2021-May 2021: Mentor and Tutor, Family Mentorship Partnership: Ascension Catholic School and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Minneapolis MN.

Fall 2020: Present-Spanish Translator and Interpreter, Christo Rey Jesuit High School, Minneapolis MN.

April 2020-September 2021: Economy of Francesco: Coordinator of C02 of Inequalities Village: Research and Publications Pillar, Virtual.

Fall 2019: Social Justice Committee Member: Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Minneapolis MN.

Fall 2018-Present: Tutor, St. John Paul II Catholic School, Catholic Tutor Corps, Minneapolis MN.

Citizenship: USA

Languages: English (Native), Spanish (Native), Persian/Farsi (Fluent), Baluchi (Conversational).

Computer Programming: Microsoft Excel, SAS, Stata, R, Python, Julia, ArcGIS.

Other Qualifications:

Special Sworn Status, US Census Bureau, Georgetown University Federal Research Data Center, Spring 2020-Present

Top Secret SCI, Security Clearance, 2d Radio Bn, United States Marine Corps, Winter 2009-August 2013.