**Assignment 1 – Personal essay – Daniela Segura Valencia**

**Due date: Tuesday, June 9th, 2020 by 5:00PM**

**¿Who I am?**

**Daniela Segura Valencia**

As a child I grew up surrounded by a big family full of boys and men, thus, I used to reject all activities related with the usual hobbies young girls are in to. Instead, I enjoyed playing the usual “boy games”, that implied getting nasty at the park, with the dust; or getting in contact with all kind of animals and bugs. In fact, one of my most appreciated memory is how my family and I, used to spend special dates together at my grandfather´s farm, at his hometown. There were horses and cows, and my grandfather, loved to teach us, his grandchildren, the correct way a person should treasure all kind of living being and in general, how to take good care of the nature. Every time December came, meant for us the young, that the time of picking up oranges, coffee, bananas, lemons, and so on, was near; that the moment of being surrounded by mountains and nature was around the corner. The way I was raised made me a person who values the small things life give me, since as a child, I was taught to respect and enjoy the most minimum gift and experience.

Currently, I am 23 years, I just got a degree as economist the last September and began a master’s degree in economics at the same university, the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. Since a year ago, I have been working at a bank, therefore, the hours of an usual day for me have to be well accounted, so I cannot lose time. Before and during the quarantine, I start my days with a class at the university from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM, then, I work from 9:30 to 5:30 PM, and by last, I return to the university for a class to 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. In an usual week day, I just accomplish my assignments at work and university; but in general, I take advantage of the Saturday morning, to study and get ahead with all the delayed readings; later, in the afternoon and night, I spend time with my boyfriend and our families, in a lot of different activities, like cooking, drinking some cocktails, meeting new places at Bogotá or just staying at home resting. Lately, with all the mobility restrictions, I have been spending my free time learning Italian, reading some books, doing exercise routines with my father and mother, and sometimes I even practice piano.

Nonetheless, now that I have just finished the final exams, I want to start thinking about how I will develop my master thesis, in fact, this is the main reason I decided to keep learning about causal inference and research design during my vacations. Although I already have some econometric and programing tools, I want to deepen my knowledge as much as possible, so I can accomplish a thesis in the most optimum way and also start acquiring experience with the research line about social security in Latino América, which is one of the so many reasons I got a degree in economics. In fact, as my father works at pension management unit, since very young, I got in contact with this kind of topics, and started to understand the importance at long run of sustainable policies that provide the optimum conditions to elderly and the best way people decide to distribute consumption during a life time.

Actually, my one-year plan is to get my thesis approved, so I can start thinking about doing a master’s degree with emphasis in pensions and the aging society, at Tilburg University. To reach this “short time” goal, I need to obtain successful grades, read and learn a lot, and work, so I can get enough savings. At this moment of my life, I am not very confident about making a life abroad, far away from my family, although I am very sure that I want to spend at least two years living by myself in a different country. For this reason, my five years plan, depends on the decisions I make (and the opportunities that arise at the moment) about getting a work here in Colombia or in Europe, once I am done with the master´s degree at Netherlands. By last, by the time I am thirty years, I want to dedicate myself to doing research and working as government advisor in policy making about the social security system in Colombia.