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## **I. Education**

2006 – Ph.D. in Economics, Boston University, USA  
2000 – Master in Economics, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Buenos Aires, Argentina.  
1996 – Economist, Universidad de Buenos Aires - Facultad de Ciencias Económicas, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

## **II. Labor Experience**

October 2017- : Deputy Director Center for Distributional and Labor Studies (CEDLAS), UNLP  
2024- Independent Researcher Conicet  
2017-: 2023 Associate Researcher, Conicet (National Council of Science and Technology)  
2012-2016: Assistant Researcher, Conicet (National Council of Science and Technology)  
2008- Professor & Senior Researcher, Center for Distributional and Labor Studies (CEDLAS), Department of Economics, University of La Plata, Argentina.  
2015- Scientific Director, Policy Impact Experimental Research Initiative, Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP), Canada & Kenya  
2013-2015, Coordinator and President of the Policy Impact Evaluation Research Initiative, Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP), Canada  
2008-2012, Member of the Evaluation Committee of the Policy Impact Evaluation Research Initiative, Poverty and Economic Policy Network, Canada  
2006- 2008: Chief Researcher, IERAL, Buenos Aires, Argentina, in charge of Labor, income distribution, impact evaluation and poverty analysis studies.  
From July 2002-May 2004: Research Assistant, Prof. Marianne Baxter, Boston University  
From July 1997 to August 2000: Perez Companc S.A. Corporate Economic Analysis and Planning Department – Analyst. Duties: Macroeconomic and microeconomic research.

## **III. Teaching Experience**

2022- - Professor of Behavioral Economics, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Facultad de Ciencias Económicas  
2010 - - Professor of Development Economics, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Ciencias Económicas (Graduate level)  
2013 –, In charge of the CEDLAS Summer School for Impact Evaluation, basic and intermediate training course.  
2008- - , Universidad de La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina , Microeconometrics for Program Evaluation (Graduate Level)  
Other courses taught: Policy Evaluation (Graduate), Labor Economics, (Graduate Level), Game Theory (Undergraduate level), Topics in Applied Industrial Organization (Undergraduate level), International Finance (Undergraduate level)

#### IV. Research Interests

Development economics, labor economics, economics of education, health economics

#### V. Main Recent Publications

- “**Effective community mobilization: Evidence from Mali**,” co-authored with Juan Camilo Cardenas and Habiba Djebbari, *World Development*, Volume 190, 2025, 106956, ISSN 0305-750X, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2025.106956>
- "The Wellbeing Effects of an Old Age Pension: Experimental Evidence for Ekiti State in Nigeria"(2022), co-authored with Natalia Cantet, Anna Dammert and Damilola Olajide, **Journal of African Economies**, 2023;, ejad012, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jae/ejad012>.
- "Monetary Incentives and Early Initiation of Antenatal Care: A Matched-Pair, Parallel Cluster-Randomized Trial in Zambia" (2022), co-authored with Chitalu Miriam Chama-Chiliba, Peter Hangoma, Natalia Cantet, Patricia Funjika & Grayson Koyi, **Studies in Family Planning**, Volume 53, Issue 4, Pages: 567-693
- "The dirty business of eliminating open defecation: The effect of village sanitation on child height from field experiments in four countries, (2022), co-authored with Lisa Cameron, Paul Gertler, Manisha Shah, Sebastian Martinez y Sumeet Patil, **Journal of Development Economics**, Volume 159, 2022, 102990, ISSN 0304-3878, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdeveco.2022.102990>.
- “Pay for performance for prenatal care and newborn health: Evidence from a developing country,”(2021), María Laura Alzúa, Noemí Katzkowicz, **World Development**, Volume 141, 2021,105385, ISSN 0305-750X, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2020.105385>.
- "A Community-Based Program Promotes Sanitation," María Laura Alzúa, Habiba Djebbari, and Amy J. Pickering, **Economic Development and Cultural Change** 68, no. 2 (January 2020): 357-390. <https://doi.org/10.1086/701214>
- “Demand-Driven Youth Training Programs: Experimental Evidence from Mongolia”, Maria Laura Alzúa, Soyolmaa Batbekh, Altantsetseg Batchuluun, Bayarmaa Dalkhjav, José Galdo **The World Bank Economic Review**, <https://doi.org/10.1093/wber/lhaa0133>, June 2020
- Beyond technical skills training: The impact of credit counseling on the entrepreneurial behavior of Ugandan youth”. Alzua, ML, Baez, MJ, Galiwango, S, et al. , **Review of Development Economics**. 2020; 24: 750– 765. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rode.12706>
- "The effect of education on teenage fertility: causal evidence for Argentina" (2017), joint work with Cecilia Velazquez, **Journal of Migration and Development**, Sept 2017
- "Community-level sanitation coverage is more strongly associated with child growth and household drinking water quality than access to a private toilet in rural Mali" (2017), joint work with Michael Harris, Nicolas Osbert and Amy Pickering, **Environmental Science and Technology**, 2017 Jun 20;51(12):7219-7227. doi: 10.1021/acs.est.7b00178. Epub 2017 Jun
- Long-Run Effects of Youth Training Programs: Experimental Evidence from Argentina”, (2016) joint with Guillermo Cruces and Carolina López, **Economic Inquiry**,online version: DOI: 10.1111/ecin.12348, also published as IZA working paper 9784 “Long Run Effects of Youth Training Programs: Experimental Evidence from Argentina”, <http://ftp.iza.org/dp9784.pdf>
- “Effect of a community-led sanitation intervention on child diarrhoea and child growth in rural Mali: a cluster-randomised controlled trial”, joint with Amy Pickering, Carolina Lopez, Habiba Djebbari and Massa Coulibaly, **The Lancet**<sup>GH</sup>, Volume 3, No. 11, e701–e711, November 2015

- "Educational Reform and Labor Market Outcomes: the Case of Argentinas Ley Federal de Educación", (2015) joint with Leonardo Gasparini and Francisco Haimovich, **Journal of Applied Economics** XVII (I), pp21-44.
- "The Long and Winding Road towards Fiscal Decentralization" (2014) joint work with Carolina Lopez, **Economica**, Vol. LX Jan-Dec 2014
- "Welfare programs and labor supply in developing countries. Experimental evidence from Latin America", (with Guillermo Cruces and Laura Ripani), **Journal of Population Economics** (2013) (older versions, IZA Working paper Series Nro. 6959, Documento de Trabajo CEDLAS Nro. 95)
- "The Quality of Life in Prisons: Does Education Reduce in Prison Conflict?", (2010) in **"The Economics of Crime: Lessons for Latin America"**, NBER, edited by R. Di Tella, S. Edwards and Ernesto Schargrotsky, Chicago University Press.
- "Impact of Product Standards on Argentine Exports, employment and Wages", in **"Global Economic Institutional, Intellectual, Religious Interactions: A historical sketch"**, edited by Bob Lucas, T.N. Srinivasan and Lynn Squire, Edward Elgar Publishers.(2009).
- "Are Secondary Workers Informal Workers: Evidence for Argentina", (2009) **"Desarrollo y Sociedad"**, special issue on Labor Market Informality.
- Los programas sociales y el delito contra la propiedad: Evidencia del Programa Plan Jefes y Jefas de Hogar Desocupados en Argentina, in "Perspectivas sobre desarrollo Seguridad ciudadana y bienestar", (2011) Daniel Ortega editor, Vol. 9-Nº 1, Corporación Andina de Fomento.

## VI. Recent Working Papers and Papers under review

- "Health Workers and Ante Natal Care in Rural Tanzania" co-authored with Doris Matcha.
- "Learning through Play: Early Childhood Education in The Gambia" co-authored with Hamidou Jawara
- "Scrolling into Anxiety: Experimental Evidence from University Students", co authored with Azul Menduiña y Milagros Onofri (under review)
- "Early Community Reactions and acceptance of the Sliding-Scale CBHI Scheme in Ethiopia: Qualitative Findings from the Treatment Arm, en co-autoría con Zewdie Birhanu; Beshea Gelana; Nimona Berhanu; Sudhakar PhD Morankar; Shabu Abdulbari; Bikiltu Abdissa; Jemal Abafita; Badhasa Wolteji; Gudeta Abebe; Yamirot Andualem; Haimanot Hailu; Tigist Teferi; Dinka Irana; Hasen Haji; Natalia Cantet"; (under review)
- "Soft-skills training, locus of control and labor market outcomes of youth in Kenya", en co-autoría con Kibrom Abay. Laura N. Barasa, Phyllis Macchio and Martin Tabe-Ojong R&R Journal of African Economies.
- "Kindergartens and Female Labor Supply: Evidence for Mongolia"
- "Community mobilization around social dilemmas: evidence from lab experiments in rural Mali"(2015), with Juan Camilo Cárdenas (Universidad de los Andes) and Habiba Djebbari (Aix-Marseille School of Economics y Laval University), under review
- "Home investment and labor allocation within the household: evidence from a lottery", joint work with Guillermo Cruces and Julian Amendolaggine
- "Can Compulsory Education Reforms Reduce Teenage Pregnancy? Evidence from Latin America and the Caribbean", with Catherine Rodriguez and Edgar Villa,2015, under review
- "Resultados de los daños económicos de la inundación del dos de abril de 2013 en la ciudad de La Plata", CEDLAS, Universidad Nacional de La Plata

- “Impact Evaluation for Policy Making: A close look at Latin American countries with weaker research capacities”, joint work with Habiba Djebbari and Martin Valdivia, CEDLAS Working Paper

## **VII. Awards**

Best of Unicef Research (2015) for the project “Community Led Total Sanitation: A Randomized Controlled Trial in Mali”

Premio ANCE, Academia Nacional de Ciencias Económicas (Argentina) for the project “Social Housing and Labor Supply: Results from a lottery”, joint with Guillermo Cruces and Julian Ammendolagine.

Other awards: Summer Research Grant, Boston University, 2003, Boston University Fellowship 2000-2002, Honor diploma, University of Buenos Aires, 1997

## **VIII. Research Grants**

## **Randomized controlled trials**

“Impact Evaluation of CBHI in Ethiopia”, financed by Fund for Innovation and Development (2023-2026), Mentor and Researcher, EUR 1,000,000

“Experimental impact evaluations in East and West Africa” (2021-2024), (PI), USD 2,360,000 financed by the Hewlett Foundation

“Government Mentoring for conducting experimental impact evaluations in East and West Africa” (2018-2021), (PI), USD 1,700,000 financed by the Hewlett Foundation

IDRC and UkAid (2017-2019) “Policy Evaluation Experimental Research Initiative: Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment” (Research Director USD 1,000,000)

IDRC (2015-2017) “Social Housing and Labor Supply”. (Co-PI:CAN\$ 100,000)

IDRC “Towards a better understanding of social policy design: Field Experiment in India” (2015-2016), (Co-PI), US\$ 35,000

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (2010-2012), “Evaluating the Impact of Sanitation Interventions on Health and Behavioral Outcomes” Randomized Controlled Trial in Mali. (PI) US\$ 900,000

International Youth Foundation (2009-2011), “Evaluating the Effect of Youth Training Programs on Employment and Credit Use”, (PI) US\$ 30,000

## **Other projects**

“Policy Impact Research Initiative” (2013-2016), Coordinator, administering a budget of CAD\$ 2,000,000 in research grants for experimental projects in low income countries.

International Development Research Center (2014-2016) “Program Evaluation: Fostering Capacities among Policy-makers”, (PI) , US\$ 500,000

International Development Research Center (2014-2016) “Gender Perspectives in Labor Markets in Latin America”, (Co-PI) , US\$ 500,000

International Development Research Center (2010-2013) “Labor Markets in Latin America”, (Co-PI) , US\$ 500,000

Poverty and Economic Policy Network, “A model to evaluate Social Security Reform in Argentina” (2004-2006), (PI) US\$ 25,000

## **XI Other activities**

- Founder of Colegio Galileo (2019)
- Program leader, Policy Impact Evaluation Research Initiative (PIERI), Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) research network, Université Laval, 2013-2015.

- Research Director, Thematic Research Group, Experimental Research, Partnership for Economic Policy, 2016- Activities: support 4 Randomized Controlled Trial research projects in Africa (Uganda, Nigeria and Ghana), Asia (Mongolia) -Support 2 Field Experiments in Asia (India) and Latin America (Bolivia) aiming at testing economic hypotheses on intra-household bargaining power and discrimination in access to financial services. Coordinate the scientific support provided to the teams for this initiative. This includes conducting workshops on econometrics methods, survey design and data analysis (South Africa, Bolivia, Kenya), organizing and co-organizing conferences (South Africa, Bolivia, Kenya and Manila), reviewing research proposals and outputs, collaborating to research articles. coordinate fund-raising for this initiative.
- Impact Evaluation Network (IEN) at LACEA, Network Co-Chair since 2007. Organized the yearly meetings: Universidad de los Andes, Bogota (2007), IMPA, Rio de Janeiro (2008), Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota (2009), Miami School of Business, Miami (2010), CEDLAS, La Plata (2011), Harvard, Graduate School of Education, Cambridge (2012), GRADE, Lima (2013), IADB, Washington DC (2014), La Plata (2016) and IADB, Washington DC (2017)
- Member of the Organizing Committee of the Conference “Mind the Gap”, with 3ie and IADB, held in Cuernavaca, June 2011.

## **XII Visiting Positions**

University of California at Berkeley, Center for Labor Economics, March-April 2010.

## **XIII Refereeing**

*American Economic Journal Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economica, Economía-LACEA Journal, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Development Effectiveness, Journal of African Economies, LARR (Latin American Research Review), Oxford Development Studies, Políticas Públicas, El Trimestre Económico, Development Policy Review, Environmental Science and Technology, Economic Development and Cultural Change, World Development*