MARIA ELENA GUERRERO AMEZAGA

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EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles   *2021 - 2026*
Ph.D. in Economics

Pontifical Catholic University of Peru   *2013 - 2018*
B.A. in Economics

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Main: Development Economics, Industrial Organization
Secondary: Labor Economics, Political Economy

RESEARCH PAPERS

Small Firms and the Pandemic: Evidence From Latin America (with J.E. Humphries, C. A. Neilson, N. Shimberg, G. Ulyssea) *Journal of Development Economics*, 155, (2022), 102775

The effects of fiscal windfalls on corruption and selection into politics: Evidence from the Peruvian commodity boom (2003 - 2014). PUCP undergraduate thesis, awarded the *Best Thesis in Economics* prize.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

UCLA, Department of Economics   October 2022 - present
Research Assistant   *Los Angeles, CA*

· PIs: Natalie Bau
· Projects: Foreign Capital Liberalization, Structural Change, and the Economic Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups; Human Capital Investment in the Presence of Child Labor.

Yale University, Tobin Center for Economic Policy   September 2019 - August 2021
Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow   *New Haven, CT*

· PIs: Christopher Neilson, John Eric Humphries
· Projects: Private Childcare in Connecticut; Information Frictions and Access to the Paycheck Protection Program.
· Worked in-house at New Haven Public Schools, providing data science support for the Office of Choice & Enrollment.

Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab - LAC   September 2018 - August 2019
Research Associate   *Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic*

· PI: Christopher Neilson
· Projects: Equilibrium Effects of Public Provision in Education Markets; Evaluating the impact of personalized provision of information on earnings and financial aid in the Dominican Republic.
· Worked in-house at the Social Security Treasury of the Dominican Republic (TSS), analyzing income and employment data from half of all college and vocational training graduates in the country, which served as input for a personalized college search platform.
· Trained over 300 government social workers to carry out a nationwide survey about educational plans of conditional cash transfer beneficiaries in the Dominican Republic.

Group of Analysis for Development (GRADE)   August 2017 - March 2018
Research Intern   *Lima, Peru*

· PI: Lorena Alcazar

· Projects: Beyond NEETs: the vulnerable urban youth in Peru; Impact evaluation of the *Program for the Improvement of Early Education*, implemented by the Ministry of Education.

Innovations for Poverty Action Peru   February 2016 - August 2016
Research Intern   *Lima, Peru*

· PI: Christopher Neilson
· Project: *Choosing a Better Future: Information to Reduce School Drop Out and Child Labor Rates in Peru*, an experimental intervention carried out in partnership with the Ministry of Education's policy innovation lab.

AWARDS

Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Program, USD 6,000 (UCLA)	2023
Best undergraduate thesis in economics (PUCP)	2019
Title: *The effects of fiscal windfalls on corruption and selection into politics:*	
evidence from the Peruvian commodity boom (2003 - 2014)	
Research grant for B.A. thesis, USD 1,500 (DGI - PUCP)	2018
Academic Merit Award (7th/≈1000 sophomores, PUCP)	2014
Beginning of Academic Life Award (4th/≈500 freshmen, PUCP)	2013

OTHER COURSEWORK & ACTIVITIES

Introduction to Data Science in Python
Coursera MOOC offered by the University of Michigan   *completed July 2018*

Applied Text Mining in Python
Coursera MOOC offered by the University of Michigan   *completed August 2018*

Applied Machine Learning in Python (ongoing)
Coursera MOOC offered by the University of Michigan

SKILLS

Programming Languages	Stata, Matlab, Python (pandas, scikit-learn, nltk)
Survey Tools	SurveyCTO, Qualtrics
Other	Git, LaTeX

OTHER

Citizenship: Peruvian
Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent, Cambridge C2/TOEFL 119), French (basic)