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Undergraduate Studies:

B.A in Economics, Universidad ICESI (Colombia-Cali), 2008

Graduate Studies:

MSc in Economics, University of Los Andes (Colombia-Bogota), 2011

MSc in Finance, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2013

University of Chicago, 2015 to present

Ph.D. Candidate in Public Policy

Expected Completion Date: June 2020

References:

Professor Scott Ashworth
Harris School of Public Policy
sashwort@uchicago.edu

Professor Christopher Blattman
Harris School of Public Policy
blattman@uchicago.edu

Professor Christian Hansen
Booth School of Business
chansen1@chicagobooth.edu

Professor Michael Greenstone
Economics Department
mgreenst@uchicago.edu

Research Fields and Teaching:

Primary fields: Development Economics, Urban Economics, Crime Economics

Secondary fields: Applied Econometrics, Financial Economics, Industrial Organization

Spring, 2018/19 Order and Violence, University of Chicago, teaching fellow for
Professor Christopher Blattman
Fall, 2018 Statistics, Booth School of Business, University of Chicago, teaching fellow for
Professor Christian Hansen.
Winter, 2017 Applied Econometrics I (PhD), University of Chicago, teaching fellow for
Professor Steve Cicala
Fall, 2016-17 Microeconomic Theory I (PhD), University of Chicago, teaching fellow for
Professor Scott Ashworth

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2016-2018 University of Chicago, Research Assistant for Professor Christopher Blattman.
2008-2015 Central Bank of Colombia, Senior Economist Financial Stability Department.

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2019 The Pearson Institute Grant, University of Chicago \$4.000
2018 Becker-Friedman Development Fund \$6.000
2018 Graduate Council Travel Fund Award, University of Chicago
2018 Harris Professional Development Fund, University of Chicago
2018 The Pearson Institute Grant, University of Chicago \$5.000
2015- Doctoral Fellowship, University of Chicago
2012 Scholarship Award for Graduate Studies, Central Bank of Colombia
2011 Nominated Best Graduated Dissertations, University of Los Andes
2003 Academic Scholarship, Universidad ICESI

Pre-Doctoral Publications:

“Measuring Systemic Risk in the Colombian Financial System: A Systemic Contingent Claims Approach”. Journal of risk management in financial institutions, 2013, vol 6, number 3, pages 253-279.

“A Financial Stability Index for Colombia”. Annals of Finance, 2010, vol. 6, issue 4, pages 555-581.

Research Paper in Progress:

“The Economic Value of Crime Control”

What is the willingness to pay to reduce exposure to crime? Applying a research design based on the openings and closings of police stations in different cities in Colombia, I study the effects of public safety improvements on crime and its economic benefits. In particular, I quantify the relationship between a reduction in violent and non-violent offenses and the change in the prices of nearby residential properties. Preliminary results show that observable police reduce crime in overall; robberies and personal injuries respond more. However, the effect is local, with no appreciable impact outside the narrow area in which the police station is built. By estimating the economic benefits of crime reduction and understanding the spatial distribution of crime, better policy interventions can be proposed.

“Do Rebel Groups use violence strategically for electoral purposes?”

Do rebel groups use electoral violence strategically? There is evidence that, in civil wars, places with valuable natural resources are prone to experience higher levels of violence. What is less known is that electoral violence increases disproportionately in areas with natural resources that are easier to predate. In this paper, I present evidence of rebel groups using violence strategically during electoral years. My identification strategy relies on a Differences in Differences (DD) design that compares commodity producing with non-producing municipalities during electoral and non-electoral years. The main findings are violence increases during elections, places with natural resources experience higher levels of conflict and electoral violence increases disproportionately in locations with loot-able or obstruct-able natural resources (oil and gold). These results are in favor of the hypothesis that rebel groups use violence strategically during elections and point out an additional channel through which the resource curse operates.

Seminar and Conferences:

“Annual MPSA Conference”. **Midwest Political Science Conference (MPSA)**. April 4-7. Chicago. IL, United States (Presenting).

“Annual Fall Research Conference”. **Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)**. November 8-10, 2018. Washington. DC, United States (Presenting).

“On the Impacts of the Refugees in Hosting Economies”. **University of Southern California**. September 14-15, 2018. Los Angeles. CA, United States (Invited).

“NBER Summer Institute” Political Economy and Crime sessions. **National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)**. Summer 2018. Cambridge. MA, United States (Invited)

“Post-Conflict Stabilization: Lessons for a Post-ISIS Middle East”. **US institute of Peace and The Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts**. May 10-11, 2018. Washington. DC, United States (Invited).

“Development Economics Lunch” **University of Chicago**. April 6, 2018. Chicago, IL, United States (Presenting).

“Empirical Studies of Conflict Project Annual Meeting Addressing Persistent Conflict”. **US institute of Peace and The Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts**. May 18-19, 2017. Washington. DC, United States (Invited).

“Workshop of Eurosystem and Latin American Central Banks: Monetary Policy, Macro-prudential Policy and Financial Stability- Experiences from Advanced and Emerging Economies”. **European Central Bank and CEMLA**. March 2-3, 2015. Bogota, Colombia.

“Central Banking Study Program on Financial Stability.”. **Bank of Korea**. June 14 to 20, 2014. Seoul, South Korea.

“Banca Central y Regulación Financiera Macprudencial, III Reunión de Bancos Centrales”. **Banco Central de Ecuador**. Mayo 17-18 de 2011. Quito, Ecuador.

“Macroprudential Issues”. **Deutsche Bundesbank and CEMLA**. August 31 to September 2, 2010. Mexico City, Mexico.