

ALICIA S. MENENDEZ

1307 East 60th Street
Harris School of Public Policy
The University of Chicago
Chicago, IL 60637

Phone: (773) 702-4973
menendez@uchicago.edu

Education

Ph.D., Boston University, Department of Economics

M.A., Economics, Instituto Torcuato DiTella, Buenos Aires, Argentina

B.A., Economics, Universidad Nacional de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Academic Positions and Employment:

2009 – present	Research Associate Professor, Harris School of Public Policy Studies, University of Chicago Principal Research Scientist, International Projects Department, NORC at the University of Chicago
2009 – 2014	Research Associate Professor, Department of Economics University of Chicago
2003 – 2009	Research Associate (Assistant Professor), Harris School of Public Policy Studies, University of Chicago Lecturer in Economics, Department of Economics, University of Chicago
2001 – 2003	Researcher in Economics, Research staff member, Princeton University
1997 – 2003	Lecturer in International and Public Affairs, Princeton University
1997 – 2003	Research Network Administrator, MacArthur Network in Inequality and Poverty in Broader Perspectives, Research Program in Development Studies, Princeton University

Other Professional Activities and Affiliations:

2019 – present	Board Advisor, Graduate Program in Health Administration and Policy (GPHAP)
2013 – present	Steering Committee, Center for Global Health, The University of Chicago
2012 – present	Steering Committee, Center for Latin American Studies, The University of Chicago

2011 – present	Executive committee member, Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry & Innovation in Sexual and Reproductive Health (Ci3), The University of Chicago
2008 – present	Affiliate, South African Labour Development Research Unit, SALDRU, University of Cape Town
2008 – present	Faculty Affiliate, Population Research Center, at NORC & The University of Chicago
2007 – present	Faculty Affiliate, Center for Human Potential and Public Policy, Harris School of Public Policy Studies, The University of Chicago
2004 – 2010	Steering Committee, Center for Latin American Studies, The University of Chicago
2003 – present	Faculty Affiliate, Center for Latin American Studies, The University of Chicago
2003 – present	Visiting Scientist, Africa Centre for Health and Population Studies, South Africa

Other Work

2003 – 2004	Consultant United Nations Program for Development (UNDP) – Poverty and Migration Survey, Mongolia
1994 – 1996	Research Assistant, Harvard Institute of International Development, Harvard University
1991	Consultant, United Nations Program for Development (UNDP)-Secretary of Agriculture and Cattle, Argentina. Project: Study for the Implementation of Tax Reforms
1989 – 1991	Junior Economist, Institute for Economic Research, Economic General Confederation, Argentina
1989	Junior Economist, Regional Project ILPES/UNDP, United Nations-Institute for Economic Research, Economic General Confederation, Argentina

Selected Publications

"Attrition in Randomized Control Trails: Evidence from Early Education Interventions in Sub-Saharan Africa.", 2022, *Revise and resubmit* (with A. Ome and C. Ardington)

“Using SMS to improve early reading skills: evidence from Zambia”, 2022, *Education Economics* 30:4, 384-398, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09645292.2021.1988518> (with A. Ome)

“Using Body Mapping to Explore Gender with Adolescents in Uttar Pradesh”, 2022, *Journal of Youth Studies*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13676261.2022.2039600> (with McCammon, Bansal, & Gilliam)

“Benchmarking oral reading fluency in the early grades in Nguni languages”, 2021, *International Journal of Educational Development*, Volume 84 (with Ardington, Wills, Pretorius, and Mohohlwane) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijedudev.2021.102433>

“Exploring young women’s menstruation-related challenges in Uttar Pradesh, India, using the socio-ecological framework”, 2020 *Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters*, 28:1, DOI: 10.1080/26410397.2020.1749342 (with McCammon, Bansal, Hebert, Yan, & Gilliam)

“Understanding young women’s experiences of gender inequality in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh through story”, 2019, *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth* (with. Hebert, Bansal, Lee, Yan, Akinola, Rhyne, and Gilliam)

“Trapped: Young Women in Urban Uttar Pradesh Reflect on Their Mobility”, 2018, *Journal of Adolescent Health* 62 (2), S8 (with Hebert, Bansal, Yan, Rhyne, Seth, Shukla & Gilliam)

“Improving teaching quality through training: Evidence from the Caucasus” September 2017, *Economics of Education Review*, (with A. Ome and E. Lee)

“ The role of gender-based discrimination in shaping young men’s and women’s experience with adolescence in Uttar Pradesh, India” (2017) *Contraception* 96 (4), 306 (with Bansal, Hebert, Yan, Rhyne, Seth, Shukla & Gilliam)

"Social protection and labour market outcomes of youth in South Africa", *Industrial and Labor Relations*, March 2016 69: 455-470, (with C. Ardington, T. Barnighausen, and A. Case)

"Early childbearing, human capital attainment and mortality risk," 2015, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, Vol. 63, No. 2, pp. 281-317 (with Cally Ardington, and Tinofa Mutevedzi)

“The economic consequences of AIDS mortality in South Africa” 2014, *Journal of Development Economics* 111, 48-60 (with C. Ardington, T. Barnighausen, and A. Case)

“The Puzzling Effects of Delaying Schooling on Canadian Wages,” 2014, *Canadian Public Policy*, 40(3), September (with Ana Ferrer) -- *Winner of the John Vanderkamp Prize for the best paper published in the Canadian Public Policy/Analyse de Politiques in 2014*

“Paying the Piper: The High Cost of Funerals in South Africa,” 2013, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, October, 62:1 (with A. Case, A. Garrib and A. Olgiati)

"From Intervention to Invitation: Reshaping Adolescent Sexual Health through Storytelling & Games," *African Journal of Reproductive Health*, June 2012, 16[2]: 189-196 (with M. Gilliam, S. Orzalli, S. Heathcock, E. Sutherland, P. Jagoda, O. Ojengbede)

“Fertility Changes in Latin America in Periods of Economic Uncertainty,” *Population Studies*, Volume 65, Issue 1, March 2011, pages 37-56 (with Alicia Adsera)

“Requiescat in Pace? The Consequences of High Priced Funerals in South Africa,” 2011, in *Explorations in the Economics of Aging*, University of Chicago Press, D. Wise (ed.) (with Anne Case)

“Sex Differences in Obesity in Poor Countries: Evidence from South Africa,” 2009, *Economics and Human Biology*, Volume 7, Issue 3, (with Anne Case)

“The impact of AIDS on intergenerational transfers in South Africa: Evidence from the Cape Area Panel Study,” 2010, *Research on Aging*, Volume 32, No. 1 (with Ardington, Case, Islam, Lam, Leibbrandt, and Olgiati)

“Does Money Empower the Elderly? Evidence from the Agincourt Demographic Surveillance Area,” 2007, *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health*, Volume 35, Issue S69, pages 157 - 164 (with Anne Case)

“Why Have Urban Poverty and Income Inequality Increased So Much? Argentina 1991-2001,” 2006, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, Volume 55, Number 1, (with M. Gonzalez Rozada)

“Medical Compliance and Income-Health Gradients,” 2004, *American Economic Review*, (with A. Case and I. LeRoux)

“Public University in Argentina: Subsidizing the Rich?” 2002, *Economics of Education Review*, Vol. 21/4 pp 343-353, (with M. Gonzalez Rozada)

“Subsidies in Argentina,” 2001, *International Higher Education*, No. 22, (with M. Gonzalez Rozada)

“Wage Differentials and Trade in Argentina,” (with M. Gonzalez Rozada and D. Robbins) in Cardenas, M. (ed.), *The Effects of Structural Reforms in Labor Markets and Income Distribution*, 1997

“*Alternatives to Growth with Equity*,” in contribution with Growth and Equity Foundation, Institute of Economic Research. Crecer Foundation Editorial, Buenos Aires, Argentina. 1992 (In Spanish)

“Economic Integration, beyond Commercial Trade”, with Alejandra Anastasi, in *La Economía Latinoamericana* - Raúl Prebisch Foundation, Tesis Editorial, Buenos Aires, 1988. (In Spanish).

Selected Working and Submitted Research Papers

“Improving Early Grade Reading Performance in Nepal: differences between Nepali and non-Nepali Students”, 2023, *Submitted* (with G. Haugan)

“Read Liberia Impact Evaluation: Endline Report”, 2021, USAID/NORC at the University of Chicago (with U. Hoadley and A. Soloyeva)

"Attrition in Randomized Control Trials: Evidence from Early Education Interventions in Sub-Saharan Africa.", 2021, NORC WORKING PAPER SERIES, WP-2021.02. Chicago: NORC at the University of Chicago (with Ome, A. and Ardington, C)

"Evaluation of the Accelerated Quality Education for Liberian Children Activity (AQE).", 2021. Chicago: NORC at the University of Chicago. USAID (with Ome, A., Zimmerman, C., Wallach, J., Taha, N., Iyer, M. and Toe, N.)

“Technical Report: Benchmarking early grade reading skills in Nguni languages.”, 2020 Stellenbosch: ReSEP, Stellenbosch University. Cape Town: SALDRU, University of Cape Town. Chicago: NORC at the University of Chicago. Pretoria: Department of Basic Education (with Ardington, Wills, Pretorius, Deghaye, Mohohlwane, Mtsatse, & Van der Berg)

“Summary Report: Benchmarking early grade reading skills in Nguni languages.”, 2020 Stellenbosch: ReSEP, Stellenbosch University. Cape Town: SALDRU, University of Cape Town. Chicago: NORC at the University of Chicago. Pretoria: Department of Basic Education (with Ardington, Wills, Pretorius, Deghaye, Mohohlwane, Mtsatse, & Van der Berg)

“Uganda Performance and Impact Evaluation for Literacy Achievement and Retention Activity (LARA) Midterm impact and final performance evaluation report” 2020, NORC at The University of Chicago. USAID (with R. Nayyar-Stone, I. Rojas, C. Fierros, Schulte, M.C L. Onyango, and S. Downey)

“Retention and Attendance Data Report”, 2020. NORC at the University of Chicago. USAID (with Rojas I and R. Nayyar-Stone)

“USAID/Uganda School Health and Reading Program (SHRP): Result 1 School Level Interventions. Impact Evaluation-Final Report”, 2017, NORC at the University of Chicago. USAID

"Revisiting the ‘crisis’ in teen births: What is the impact of teen births on young mothers and their babies” (2016) Policy Brief, SALDRU University of Cape Town (with Branson, Lam, Ardington, and Leibbrandt),

“Accelerated Education Programs in Crisis and Conflict: Building Evidence and Learning”, 2016 (with A. Ramesh, P. Baxter and L. North), USAID/NORC at The University of Chicago

"Fertility and mother's labour market behaviour: Evidence from the 2011 South African Census" (2015), SALDRU WP No. 149. Cape Town: SALDRU, University of Cape Town (with C. Ardington, D. Lam and M. Leibbrandt)

"Parental and Community Involvement in Education. A Literature Review", February 2015, NORC at the University of Chicago. USAID (with Y. Cao, A. Ramesh and V. Dayaratna)

"Incentives Systems in Education, Literature Review," May 2014, NORC at the University of Chicago. USAID (with A. Ome and V. Le)

"The Cape Area Panel Study: Overview and Technical Documentation of Waves 1-2-3-4," October 2008, University of Cape Town (with Lam, Ardington, Branson, Case, Leibbrandt, Seekings and Sparks)

"Health Seeking Behavior in Northern KwaZulu-Natal," Harris School Working Paper Series, No. 05.04, April 2005 (with Anne Case and Cally Ardington)

"The Effect of Unemployment on Labor Earnings Inequality: Argentina in the Nineties," RPDS Working Paper 193, January 2000 (with Martin Gonzalez Rozada)

"Análisis de Extraedad y Abandono Escolar en el Gran Buenos Aires, Córdoba y Mendoza en 1998," (with Martin Gonzalez Rozada), FADE Working Paper, November 1999, (In Spanish)

"Wage Dispersion and Inflation: Some Empirical Evidence," mimeo, June 1999

"Relative Wages and Inflation: Argentina 1974-1993," mimeo, January 1999

"Real Aggregate Wages and Compositional Bias," mimeo, December 1997

"Public Sector Retrenchment and Efficient Compensation Schemes: Argentinean Voluntary Separation Program," (with D. Robbins and M. Gonzalez Rozada), November 1997

Program Evaluations and Data Collection -- Selected Experience

USAID-Multiple Countries, Reading and Access Evaluation 2013-2022. This large-scale project involves evaluation of multiple programs in several countries. Interventions to be evaluated focus on early reading and access to education in areas of conflict or crisis. Dr. Menendez serves as the Principal Investigator and Evaluation Expert for the projects and therefore oversees technical and methodological aspects of the evaluations. Evaluations in Zambia, Ethiopia, Nepal, Senegal, South Africa, Kenya, Liberia, Tanzania, Peru, Morocco,

Senegal, Pakistan and Malawi. Research work on Incentives in Education, Parental and Community Involvement in Education, and Alternative Learning Programs. Role: PI

IDP Foundation, Impact Evaluation Sesame Workshop's Techniques for Effective Teaching Project in Ghana, 2017-2021. The Ghana Sesame Workshop's (SW) Techniques for Effective Teaching (TFET) program is supported by the IDP Foundation, Inc. (IDPF) and implemented in low-fee private schools in the IDP Rising Schools Program in Ghana. We conducted an evaluation focusing on Kindergarten and Primary 2 learners and teachers. In addition, we assessed the quality of training implementation and utilization of new teaching techniques. Role: Senior Evaluation Advisor.

USAID/Uganda Performance and Impact Evaluation of Literacy Achievement and Retention Activity (LARA), 2016-2021. LARA in Uganda was supported by USAID and focused on Early Grade Reading and School Related Gender Based Violence (SRGBV) in primary institutions. Dr. Menendez served as the Evaluation Specialist and Impact Evaluation Lead and lead the team in defining appropriate performance and impact evaluation methodologies and data collection tools for the LARA evaluations, and oversee all methodological aspects of the impact evaluation, taking primary responsibility for all related design, implementation, and analysis tasks. Role: Evaluation Specialist and Impact Evaluation Lead.

Gates Foundation, India, Digital storytelling to empower youth and engender change in Uttar Pradesh. 2015-2021 The project sought to address disparities in family planning outcomes for youth ages 15-24 by accelerating learning on gender inequalities, identifying avenues for intervention, and implementing and evaluating solutions. The focus was adolescent sexual and reproductive health outcomes, defined as both contraceptive services and the proximal and distal determinants of their delivery and uptake. Role: Evaluation lead and co-PI.

USAID-Republic of Georgia, Georgia Primary Education (G-PriEd) 2014-2016. Dr. Menendez served in the capacity of a senior advisor to the project, providing methodological guidance in all aspects of the impact evaluation. She worked closely with the Principal Investigator in developing the most rigorous analytic methodologies to address research questions of interest and guiding the impact analysis. Role: Senior Evaluation Advisor

USAID/Uganda Performance and Impact Evaluation of the School Health and Reading Project, 2012-2017. The School Health and Reading Program (SHRP) in Uganda was supported by USAID and focused on Early Grade Reading and HIV and AIDS education in primary and post primary institutions. We conducted impact and performance evaluations of SHRP Project using the most rigorous experimental and quasi-experimental methods and best practices. Dr. Menendez served as the Chief of Party and Evaluation Expert in this project, and was responsible for technical and methodological leadership and oversight of all evaluation activities, including the design of a mixed-method impact evaluation, sampling, oversight of data collection activities, and analysis. Role: Chief of Party and Evaluation Expert

MCC Ghana Impact Evaluation Services, 2010-2015. MCC contracted with NORC to assess five activities under the MCC Program in Ghana. These activities include post-harvest infrastructure, irrigation, and credit activities under the program's Agriculture Project, and Education and Financial Services activities under its Rural Development Project. Dr. Menendez served as the Evaluation Expert and Technical Team Lead on this project. She was responsible for all aspects of the design, implementation, and analysis related to the evaluations. Role: PI

Honors, Academic Awards, Grants

1986-1987	Graduate Fellowship, Instituto Torcuato DiTella, Argentina
1988	United Nations-ILPES, Fellowship. XXIX Curso Internacional de Desarrollo, Planificación y Políticas Públicas, Chile
1988	Raul Prebisch Foundation, Latin-American Economies Fellowship
1993-1994	Ford Foundation Scholarship
1994-1996	Graduate Fellowship, Boston University
1995-1997	Rosenstein-Rodan Fellowship
2002-2007	NIH-Poverty, Inequality and Health in Economic Development
2003	Finalist Research Medal for "Why have urban poverty and income inequality increased so much? Argentina 1991-2001." Global Development Network Annual Conference. Cairo, Egypt 2003.
2003-2008	NIA- <i>Economics of Aging: Economic Status, Economic Inequality and Health Inequality</i> - Researcher
2010-2011	Population Research Center, University of Chicago, Research Grant
2010-2011	Center for Human Potential and Public Policy, University of Chicago, Faculty Development Award
2011-2012	Population Research Center, University of Chicago, Research Grant: <i>Social protection and labor market outcomes in South Africa: Employment and Youth Transitions to the Marketplace</i> - Principal Investigator
2011-2012	International Development Research Centre (IDRC) <i>Social Protection and labour market outcomes of the youth in South Africa</i> - Researcher
2012-2014	Hewlett Foundation, Population, reproductive health and economic development program (PopDev). Population Reference Bureau: <i>Fertility Timing and Women's Economic Outcomes in South Africa</i> - Researcher
2013-2015	National Science Foundation (NSF): <i>Finding the Source: Interdisciplinary Methodologies for Evaluation of Game-Based STEM learning</i> - Principal Investigator
2014-2016	University of Chicago Center in Delhi- Research Grant: <i>"Designing Solutions for Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health in India"</i> - Principal Investigator

2015-2016 University of Chicago Center in Delhi- Research Grant: "*A Randomized Evaluation of the Impacts of Matching Benefits and Low Cost Financial Education on the Take-up and Contribution to a Pension Scheme (NPS--Swavalamban) for the Unorganized Workers in India*" - Principal Investigator

2015 Winner of the John Vanderkamp Prize for the best paper published in the Canadian Public Policy/Analyse de Politiques in 2014, for "The Puzzling Effects of Delaying Schooling on Canadian Wages," (with Ana Ferrer)

2015-2021 Gates Foundation Grant, "*Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health in India*" - CI3 – Co-Principal Investigator

2021-2022 Provost's Global Faculty Awards "Findings and Lessons Learned from the Formative Research and Community-Based Testing of the Kissa Kahani intervention in Uttar Pradesh" Co-PI

Reviewer Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Health Economics, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Demography, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Journal of Human Resources, Review of Economic Studies, Population Studies, Economics of Education Review, Economics and Human Biology, Canadian Journal of Economics, Journal of Population Economics, IZA Journal of Labor & Development, Econometric Letters, Journal of Urban Economics, International Journal of Educational Development, Review of Economics of the Household, Children and Youth Services Review, International Journal of Gender Studies in Developing Societies, Population Research and Policy Review, Social Science Research, Journal of Demographic Economics, Journal of Health Economics, International Migration,

National Science Foundation and the National Research Foundation in South Africa

Languages Spanish (native), English (fluent)