Marina Lemos

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Department of Economics, Columbia University | 420 West 118th Street, New York, NY 10027, USA

EDUCATION

Columbia University   New York, NY

Ph.D. in Economics   September 2019 - May 2025 (expected)

M.Phil. in Economics   May 2022

M.A. in Economics   May 2021

Fields: Labor & Public Economics, Econometrics

Awards & Fellowships: Dean's Fellowship (2019-2020), PER Summer Research Stipend (2022), Economics Department Fellowship (2020-present)

Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV-EPGE)   Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

M.A. in Economics   January 2017 - March 2019

B.A. in Economics   February 2013 - December 2016

Awards & Fellowships: PIBIC Fellowship for Undergraduate Research (2013-2014), FGV-EPGE's Fellowship due to top ten ranking in the entrance exam (2013-2016), CNPq's Fellowship for Graduate Studies (2017-2019)

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Columbia University

Graduate Researcher   September 2019 - present

- Researching topics such as student loans, labor informality and political clientelism in the context of developing economies.
- Built technical relationships with government officials from the Brazilian Ministry of Education, collected and cleaned large administrative data sets (e.g. ~1.8 million student loan recipients, >100 million formal sector workers), and implemented causal estimation methods using R and Stata.
- Presented own academic research in the Development and Labor & Public Finance colloquia (each with ~30 students and professors) at least once per semester starting on the second year of the program.

Research Assistant (Professor Michael Best)   July 2021 - December 2023

- Coauthoring a research project on whether providing information and technical assistance reduces bottlenecks on prevention of "routine" natural disasters by municipal authorities, which involves building technical cooperation agreements with government agencies, collecting and cleaning large administrative data sets, quantifying the causal impacts of these disasters at the local level, and running a randomized control trial with a subsample of Brazilian municipal authorities (ongoing).
- Cleaned large administrative data sets (e.g. >550 million invoices of pharmaceutical-related transactions) and ran regression analyses using R, as well as interacted with Brazilian government officials to maintain technical partnerships for a project that evaluates whether governments are overpaying for goods and services compared to the private sector.

Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV-EPGE)

Graduate Researcher (Professor Cecilia Machado)   April 2018 - April 2019

- Built a nested logit model on MATLAB to examine the effect of gender on college major choice in the Brazilian context, collected standardized exam test scores, student characteristics and college choice data for over 4 million students, and merged these administrative data sets together.
- Merged Brazil's registry of low-income households with its conditional cash transfer payroll data to build a data set with more than 30 million female beneficiaries and their children, performed statistical analyses of this data using Stata, and collaborated in the writing of research proposals.

Undergraduate Researcher (Professor Carlos Eugenio Da Costa)   December 2013 - September 2014

- Participated in the Brazilian government's PIBIC program that offers research scholarships for undergraduate students and wrote paper on the impact of governmental intervention in private insurance markets.
- Wrote undergraduate thesis on the impact of immigration flows on welfare by exploring models on the demand and supply of immigrant labor.

Teaching Assistant Experience

Columbia University
Teaching Fellow   September 2020 - May 2023
- Courses: Principles in Economics (Spring 2023 as head TA & 2021, Fall 2020), Advanced Econometrics (Fall 2022 & 2021), Public Economics (Spring 2022), and Introduction to Econometrics (Summer 2021).
- Held weekly recitation sessions and office hours, and assisted in the preparation and grading of problem sets, midterms, and finals.

Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV-EPGE)
Teaching Assistant, Microeconomic Theory II (Graduate Level)   April 2018 - July 2018
- Led weekly recitation sessions for over 20 M.A. and Ph.D. students, prepared and graded the weekly problem sets, and helped to grade the midterm and final.

Works in Progress

Beyond Borrowing: The Effects of a Student Loan Program Expansion on Students and Local Labor Markets

Dampening Natural Disasters' Disruptive Effects on Firms and Labor Markets
with Michael Best, Renata Lemos, and Daniela Scur (funded by JPAL and IGC)

A Win-Win Situation for Employer and Employee: The Labor Market Effects of an Income Tax Deduction Program

Labor informality is a stark reality in most developing countries, and tax policy is often seen as a potential solution to this phenomenon. This paper studies the introduction of an income tax deduction program that aimed to affect the labor formality status of workers by changing the economic incentives of their employers. Using Brazilian survey data from before and after the policy change, I compare the labor market outcomes - such as the probability of being formally hired, number of hours worked, and hourly wages - of targeted and non-targeted workers in the same occupation with a difference-in-difference strategy. In addition, I extend this framework to evaluate whether there are heterogeneous effects of this tax policy based on eligibility to the Brazilian conditional cash transfer program.

No Quid Pro Quo? Evidence on Clientelism and (Lack of) Firm Growth

Political connections have been documented to be beneficial to firms in both developing and developed economies, but little attention has been paid to the potential labor market effects of such relationships. This paper evaluates whether short-term political connections are enough to impact firm growth and its workers using data from local elections in Brazil and the Brazilian matched employer-employee data set. I exploit the exogenous variation that arises in a close elections framework to estimate the effects of clientelism on total payroll, average wage and tenure, and number of hires, separations and establishments at the firm level (as well as wage, tenure, and employment status at the worker level) with an event study approach. Further, I analyze if public procurement outcomes are affected by using municipality-level data from the largest state in the country, as this could be a possible channel through which clientelism affects firm growth.

Departmental Service

Columbia University
Applied Microeconomics Methods Colloquium Organizer   2022 - 2023
- Scheduled the presentations of >20 Ph.D. students, and coordinated lunches with external seminar speakers

Mentor on Undergraduate Mentoring Program   2022 - 2023
- Program organized by the Association of Graduate Economics Students (AGES)

Other Information

Programming: R, Stata, MATLAB, LaTeX
Skills: Probability Theory, Statistics, Econometrics, Causal Inference, Policy Evaluation
Referee Service: EconomiA
Languages: Portuguese (native), English (fluent), Spanish (beginner)
Citizenship: USA and Brazil