

CAROLINA V. VERA

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Contact Information

Department of Economics
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Placement Director: Price Fishback
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Administrative Director: Liz Jenkins
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Education

University of Arizona Ph.D., Economics	2027 (expected)
Georgetown University/Universidad Alberto Hurtado (ILADES) M.A., Economics, <i>summa cum laude</i>	2019
Universidad Católica Boliviana “San Pablo” B.S., Economics, <i>magna cum laude</i>	2017

Research Fields

Primary: Labor Economics, Economic History.
Secondary: Environmental Economics, Child Development.

References

Price Fishback (Co-Chair) University of Arizona fishback@arizona.edu	Evan Taylor (Co-Chair) University of Arizona evantaylor@arizona.edu	Ashley Langer University of Arizona alanger@arizona.edu
Laura Bakkensen University of Oregon lbak@uoregon.edu	John Drabicki (Teaching) University of Arizona drabicki@arizona.edu	

Job Market Paper

High Waters, Unequal Ground: The 1937 Ohio River Flood and Economic Inequality

Abstract: Communities can rebuild after disasters even when the people who lived through them do not recover their prior economic position. This paper studies that distinction using the 1937 Ohio River Flood. I combine a new neighborhood-level measure of flood damage with linked individual U.S. Census records from 1920, 1930, and 1940 to follow families before and after the disaster. Relative to comparable residents of undamaged areas, flood exposure shifts sons downward relative to their fathers, reduces upward mobility by 6 percent, and increases large downward mobility by about 7 percent. Exposed individuals also occupy lower positions in the post-flood economic distribution and are more likely to end up in its bottom quarter. Among wage earners, earnings fall by 6 percent, while pure unemployment rises by about 16 percent. Evidence on mechanisms is consistent with occupational displacement: declines in self-employment and occupational status are substantially larger among individuals who were self-employed before the flood, while public emergency work is more prevalent in cities with greater flood severity. The findings show that environmental shocks can have distributional consequences beyond the immediate disruption: local recovery can coexist with lasting downward shifts in the economic trajectories of exposed residents.

Working Papers

Intergenerational Dynamic Complementarity (with Juan Pantano and Victor Ronda)

Submitted to the Journal of Human Resources

Abstract: We develop a multigenerational exposure framework for studying intergenerational dynamic complementarity in a mature public program and apply it to Head Start. The framework distinguishes an intergenerational effect, whether a parent’s exposure affects child outcomes, from an intergenerational dynamic complementarity, whether a parent’s exposure changes the return to the child’s own exposure. A model of skill formation across two generations shows that the sign of the complementarity is theoretically ambiguous. Combining the NLSY79 and its child sample with two episodes of Head Start policy variation, the 1960s rollout and 1990s funding expansions, we measure exposure in both mother and child generations. These two margins organize families into four exposure sequences and allow us to test whether the return to child-generation exposure differs according to the mother’s prior exposure. We find a positive and significant complementarity in early mathematics and little evidence in reading. The findings suggest that evaluations of mature early childhood programs should account for families’ prior histories of program exposure.

Early Childhood Policy and Family Wellbeing: Evidence from Chile

Abstract: This paper studies how access to Chile Crece Contigo, a large-scale integrated early-childhood system in Chile, affects children, caregivers, and family environments. Using longitudinal ELPI data and eligibility-based variation in targeted benefits, I examine caregiver cognition, parent-child interactions, child behavior, and childcare access. Eligibility is associated with higher caregiver numerical cognitive scores and lower dysfunctional parent-child interactions. Estimates for children’s behavioral problems are negative but less precise, while additional evidence points to increased public childcare access as a potential mechanism.

Work in Progress

Intergenerational Effects of the Dust Bowl Migration on Children's Outcomes

Uses linked historical census records to estimate the long-run effects of Dust Bowl migration on children’s educational and labor market outcomes.

Publications

Papers in Refereed Journals

Cabaleiro-Cerviño, G., and Vera, C. (2020). “The Impact of Educational Technologies in Higher Education.” *GiST Education and Learning Research Journal*, 20, 155–169. doi: 10.26817/16925777.711.

Vera Rivera, C. (2020). “Competing Risk Model in “Senior Workers”: Evidence of the Chilean Labor Market.” *Revista Latinoamericana de Desarrollo Económico*, 18(33), 143–179. doi: 10.35319/lajed.202033419.

Other Publications

Vera, C. (2017). “Analysis of Housing Prices for the Implementation of the Yellow Line of Mi Teleférico through the Hedonic Price Method.” Universidad Católica Boliviana “San Pablo”.

Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

Mentee, Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics (AMIE)	2026–2027
Travel Grant, Data-Intensive Research Conference, IPUMS & University of Minnesota	2026
George W. Coleman Research Scholarship, University of Arizona (\$1,200)	2025
Economic History Association Early-Stage Dissertation Grant (\$2,500)	2024
GPSC Travel Grant, University of Arizona (\$750)	2024

George W. Coleman Research Scholarship, University of Arizona (\$1,000)	2024
IDB Travel Grant (\$1,500)	2024
Economics Department Travel Grant, University of Arizona	2022–2024, 2026
Ed Zajac Prize, Honorable Mention for 3rd-Year Paper, University of Arizona	2024
Mentoring Travel Grant, CSWEP AEA (\$750)	2023
Vincent F. Boland Scholarship, University of Arizona	2023
GPSC Travel Grant, University of Arizona (\$1,000)	2023
Graduate Assistantship, University of Arizona	2021–Present
Invited Participant, XIV Virtual RIDGE Summer School	2021
Women Mentoring Fellowship, Chilean Society of Economists	2019
Graduate Student Travel Grant, Chilean Society of Economists	2018
Master Excellence Scholarship, ILADES/Georgetown University	2017–2019
Undergraduate Thesis Scholarship, Hanns Seidel Foundation	2016
Academic Excellence Scholarship, Hanns Seidel Foundation	2013–2017
Undergraduate Scholarship, Universidad Católica Boliviana “San Pablo”	2012

Teaching

University of Arizona

Sole Instructor

ECON 330: Macroeconomics, Global Institutions and Policy (x3)	Summer 2024–2025, Winter 2027
ECON 200: Basic Economic Issues	Summer 2023

Teaching Assistant (Selected)

ECON 361: Intermediate Microeconomics	Spring 2026
ECON 332: Intermediate Macroeconomics	Spring 2025
ECON 418: Introduction to Econometrics (x2)	Spring 2024–2025
ECON 520: Theory of Quantitative Methods in Economics (Ph.D.)	Fall 2024
ECON 511A/ECON 518: Econometrics (Graduate/Undergraduate)	2023–2024
ECON 382: Labor and Public Policy	Fall 2022, Fall 2023
ECON 325: Historical Development of Economic Institutions	Fall 2021

Universidad de las Américas, Chile

Lecturer

ECON 418: Introduction to Econometrics	2019–2020
ECON 200: Basic Economic Issues	2020

ILADES/Universidad Alberto Hurtado

Teaching Assistant

Graduate: Quantitative Methods, Econometrics I, Econometrics II	2018–2021
Undergraduate: Econometrics II	2018–2021

Research Experience

Research Assistant to Prof. Price Fishback, University of Arizona	2026
Research Assistant to Prof. Juan Pantano, University of Arizona	2022–2023
Research Consultant, Cliodinámica Consulting, Chile	2020–2021
Research Assistant to Prof. Marcela Perticará and Prof. Claudia Martínez	2019–2020
Junior Researcher, Millennium Nucleus for Social Development, University of Chile	2019
Research Assistant to Prof. Goretti Cabaleiro, Universidad Alberto Hurtado	2017–2019

Conferences, Seminars, and Workshops

2026	Economics Seminar, Arizona State University UCB Economics Alumni Research Workshop, Universidad Católica Boliviana “San Pablo” Economics Seminar, University of Arizona Data-Intensive Research Conference, IPUMS & University of Minnesota IPUMS MLP Data Workshop
2024	15th Bolivian Conference on Development Economics (BCDE) Universidad Diego Portales, Chile
2023	University of Arizona Economics Ph.D. Conference Atlanta Workshop on Public Policy and Child Well-being
2021	RIDGE Virtual Summer School, IEA World Congress
2020	11th Bolivian Conference on Development Economics (BCDE) 11th Meeting of the Chilean Public Policy Society (SCHPP)

Professional Affiliations

Member, Network for Data-Intensive Research on Aging (NDIRA)	2026–Present
Member, Economic History Association	2024–Present
Member, American Economic Association	2023–Present
Associate Researcher, Socio-Economic Research Institute	2020–Present
Full Member, Bolivian Society of Economists (SEBOL)	2020–Present

Conference Organization

Co-Organizer, UCB Economics Alumni Research Workshop	2026
Organizer, 15th Bolivian Conference on Development Economics (BCDE)	2024
Organizer & Moderator, BOWEN Special Sessions, 12th–14th BCDE	2021–2023
Logistics Assistance, 15th North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association	2021

Professional Service and Leadership

Director, Bolivian Society of Economists (SEBOL)	2024–2026
Co-Organizer, Labor Economics Student Workshop, University of Arizona	2024
Co-Founder and Former Co-Chair, Bolivian Women in Economics Network	2021–Present

Additional Information

Languages:	Spanish (native), English (C1), German (basic, A2)
Technical Skills:	Stata, R, Python, LaTeX, ArcGIS, MATLAB, and Dynare.