

Fabiola Saavedra Caballero

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Summary

I am a seasoned economist with more than 12 years of experience designing, leading, and contributing to multiple research and operational initiatives related to the transition from education to the labor market, skills-for-work development and its relevance for the productive sector, human capital formation, innovation, productivity, the impacts of public policies in high-informality settings, and the evaluation of social protection programs in developing countries.

Education

Université catholique de Louvain , Belgium	Ph.D. in Economics and Management Sciences	2022
Universidad EAFIT , Colombia	Master of Science in Economics (research track)	2013
Escuela Militar de Ingeniería , Bolivia	Postgraduate Certificate - Applied Quantitative Economics	2011
Universidad Católica Boliviana , Bolivia	Bachelor's Degree (Licenciatura) in Economics	2009

Experience

Inter-American Development Bank Washington D.C., US May 2021 - Apr 2024

Consultant - Education and Labor Markets and Social Security divisions

- Co-designed and led the skills development component of an investment loan to Belize's agriculture and tourism sectors.
- Co-designed the "ONE Caribbean" regional operational initiative to improve the living conditions of citizens in the Caribbean region.
- Co-designed technical cooperation projects in the Caribbean aimed at reducing in-school violence and enhancing social inclusion through after-school sports programs that address gender disparities.
- Led the monitoring of the TVET (Technical Vocational Education and Training) multi-donor trust fund, overseeing 24 catalytic projects across 15 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Co-authored a publication on the role of sports in development throughout Latin America and the Caribbean in collaboration with the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- Collaborated on the design of a skills-for-work development flagship with a focus on productive development.
- Prepared policy briefs, concept notes, flagship reports, diagnostics, blogs on thematic issues, project preparation documents, external donor reports and research papers.

World Bank Washington D.C., US Nov 2019 - Apr 2021

Short-term Consultant - Chief Economist Office for the East Asia and Pacific Region

- Co-authored the semi-annual Economic Update for the East Asia and Pacific Region (Publications: April 2020, October 2020, and April 2021).
- Data analysis of sectoral and firm-level productivity for the EAP economies. Estimation of projections using high-frequency data. Review of country teams' economic monitors.
- Analytical writing on productivity, investment, and government debt.

Universidad EAFIT Medellin, Colombia Jul 2016 - Feb 2018

Assistant Professor (tenure track) - School of Economics and Finance

- Conducted research, presented research findings at academic seminars, and supervised bachelor's and master's theses.
- Courses taught: Financial Econometrics (graduate), Economics of the Public Sector (graduate), Microeconomics, and Mathematical Finance.

Universidad EAFIT Medellin, Colombia Jan 2016 - Jun 2016

Adjunct Professor

Jul 2013 - Dec 2014

Courses Taught: Microeconomics, Mathematical Finance

Medellin City Council Medellin, Colombia Jan 2016 - May 2016

Economic Advisor

Prepared comprehensive reports on the national and regional economic climate. Active engagement with policymakers and counterparts. Participated in technical discussions on internal migration trends following the Peace Agreement in Colombia.

- Universidad EAFIT - ICFES (government agency)** Medellin, Colombia Jul 2015 - Jun 2016
Researcher Feb 2014 - Dec 2014
 Coauthored studies on higher education and labor market outcomes using survey data (pertinence and heterogeneity of returns).
- Universidad EAFIT - Antioquia Government** Medellin, Colombia Jan 2014 - Jun 2015
Researcher
 Led the design of the empirical strategy for the evaluation of an early childhood program evaluation (program aimed from pregnancy to age 5, for vulnerable children and their families). The findings informed the expansion of the program.
- Universidad EAFIT - UN-Habitat** Medellin, Colombia Apr 2014 - Dec 2014
Consultant
 Led analytical work to design a worldwide “City Prosperity Index” related to Education, Health, and Security. The methodology was later expanded to 333 cities in the world.
- Universidad EAFIT - Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** Medellin, Colombia Mar 2013 - Jun 2013
Researcher - SENSEable City Lab Medellin
 Coauthored a paper on the application of a household energy-efficient consumption system for the poor neighborhoods in Medellin-Colombia as a method for social inclusion.
- Universidad EAFIT** Medellin, Colombia Aug 2012 - Dec 2013
Research Assistant - School of Economics and Finance
 Provided support with econometric estimations, literature reviews, and drafting papers. Coauthored paper on the impacts of a conditional cash transfer social protection program on informality in Colombia.
- World Bank** La Paz, Bolivia May 2012 - Jul 2012
Short Term Consultant - Latin America and the Caribbean Poverty Gender and Equity Group
 Collaborated on the questionnaire design for the impact evaluation of the Community Investment in Rural Areas Project (PICAR) in Bolivia. Program objective: Fight extreme rural poverty among small landholders, particularly indigenous populations.
- Economic and Social Policy Analysis Unit (UDAPE) and UNICEF** La Paz, Bolivia Oct 2010 - Apr 2012
Consultant
 Conducted estimations using national, regional, and local expenditure data to assess the child-focused social expenditure for Bolivia.
- Economic and Social Policy Analysis Unit (UDAPE)** La Paz, Bolivia May 2009 - May 2010
Research Assistant - Social Policy Division
 Collaborated on the evaluation of social protection programs. Assisted with simulations to estimate poverty lines, minimum wage, subsidies, and fiscal expenditure. Participated in country strategy discussions with international organizations.
- Central Bank of Bolivia** La Paz, Bolivia Nov 2007 - Feb 2008
Research Assistant - Financial Stability Division
 Supported with the elaboration of the “Central Bank of Bolivia Annual Financial Stability Report”. Conducted projections and estimations for macroeconomic surveillance and monetary policy analysis.

Journal Publications

- “Recent Graduates in the Labor Market: The Efficiency Frontier of Higher Education Institutions” In: *Research in Higher Education* pp. 1-20 (2024)
- “Examining the Existence of Twin Deficits in Bolivia” with Villca, A. In: *International Journal of Emerging Markets* (July - 2024)
- “About job market outcomes: Assessing the performance of Colombian higher education institutions” with Van Bellegem, S. In: *Higher Education Quarterly* pp. 695–714 (2021)
- “It Pays to Study for the Right Job: Exploring the Causes and Consequences of Education-Occupation Job Mismatch” with Rios-Avila, F. In: *Levy Economics Institute, Working Papers Series 922*. (2019)
- “Gender and financial inclusion in Colombia” with Cardona, D. and Hoyos, M. In: *Ecos de Economía: A Latin American Journal of Applied Economics* 22.46, pp. 60–90 (2018)
- “Social assistance and informality: Examining the link in Colombia” with Ospina, M. In: *Revista de Economía del Rosario*, 21.1, pp. 81–120. (2018)

"Informality and Mobility in the Labor Market: A pseudo-panel's approach" with Canavire-Bacarreza, G. and Urrego, J. In: *Revista Latinoamericana de Desarrollo Económico*, 27, pp. 57–75. (2017)

"Decisions about postsecondary education, their returns in Colombia" with Ospina, M. In: *Journal of Education and Human Development* 22, pp.251-264 (2014)

"MICRO-RED Community Micro Smart Grid" with Mackey, C. and Diaz, A. In: *MIT-SENSEable City Guide to Medellin* pp. 22-35. (2013)

"Remonetisation and hysteresis of the deposit dollarization process in the Bolivian Financial System" with Calle, A. In: *Banco Central de Bolivia - National Award on Economics Research* (2010)

Reports and Policy Writing

"Skills for work in Latin America and the Caribbean: Unlocking talent for a sustainable and equitable future - Dossier" *Inter-American Development Bank* (2023).

"The transition to telework after COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean: Four key findings using LinkedIn data" Discussion Paper No. IDB-DP-00990 *Inter-American Development Bank* (2023).

"Multi-donor Fund for the Transformation of Technical and Vocational Education and Training: Annual Report Update 2022" *Inter-American Development Bank* (2022).

"Multi-donor Fund for the Transformation of Technical and Vocational Education and Training: Annual Report Update 2020" *Inter-American Development Bank* (2021).

"East Asia and Pacific Economic Update: Uneven Recovery" *World Bank* (April 2021).

"East Asia and Pacific Economic Update: From Containment to Recovery" *World Bank* (October 2020).

"East Asia and Pacific Economic Update: East Asia and Pacific in the Time of COVID-19" *World Bank* (April 2020).

Work in Progress (selection)

"The Role of Skills Development for Employment in the Green Transition" with Anauati, V. (Inter-American Development Bank), Prada, M. (Inter-American Development Bank), and Rucci, G. (Inter-American Development Bank).

"Habilidades para el Trabajo y de Emprendimiento en Programas de Educación Técnica y Formación Profesional en América Latina y el Caribe" with Prada, M. (Inter-American Development Bank).

"Accreditation and Labor Market Outcomes in Colombia" with Nogales, R. (Universidad Privada Boliviana and OPHI-Oxford) and Canavire-Bacarreza, G. (World Bank)

"Unveiling the Efficiency Legacy of Higher Education Institutions in the Labor Market" Sole author.

"Aiming high from below: The effects of early science training on educational outcomes" with Canavire-Bacarreza G. (World Bank), Ortiz M. (ICFES) and Urbano C. (ICFES).

"The drivers of investment growth in an era of increased government debt" with Islamaj, E. (World Bank)

"Understanding Productivity in the East Asia and Pacific Region" with Islamaj, E. (World Bank)

Referee Service

African Development Review

Latin American Journal of Economic Development

Event Organization

Bolivian Conference on Development Economics (BCDE): 2020, 2021 (Conference Chair), 2022, 2023.

Bolivian Women in Economics Network (BOWEN) sesion at BCDE: 2021, 2022, 2023.

Conferences and Seminars

Bolivian Conference on Development Economics (BCDE): 2013, 2021, 2022, 2023

Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. Workshop: Gender Inequalities, Economic Theory, and Policies for a Post-

Pandemic World - 2022

Bolivian Society of Economists (SEBOL). Development Studies Workshop SEBOL, Washington D.C. - 2019

Southern Economic Association. Annual Meeting - 2018

Latin American and Caribbean Econometric Society (LAMES). Annual Meeting - 2018

Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA). Annual Meeting: 2015, 2016, 2018

Colombian Institute for the Evaluation of Education (ICFES). 7th International Conference on Quality of Education - 2016

LACEA/IDB/WORLD BANK Network on Inequality and Poverty - 2013

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Seminar SENSEable City Lab - 2013

Eastern Economic Association. Annual Meeting - 2013

Volunteer Service

[Bolivian Society of Economists \(SEBOL\)](#) Vice President (2022-2023) ; Executive Committee (2020-2021)

[Bolivian Women in Economics Network \(BOWEN\)](#) Founder and Co-chair (2022-2023)

Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) - Scientific committee member: 2015, 2016, 2021

Colombian Institute for the Evaluation of Education (ICFES) - Advisory Board (2017-2019)

Bolivian Conference on Development Economics (BCDE) - Scientific committee member (2017-2023)

Latin American and Caribbean Econometric Society (LAMES) - Scientific committee member 2018

Honors, Grants and Awards

Bolivian Academy of Economic Sciences (ABCE): Research Fellow (2024)

World Bank - East Asia and Pacific Vice Presidential Unit: Team Award (2021)

University of Chicago - The Becker Friedman Institute: Young Scholar Grant recipient (2020)

Colombian Institute for the Evaluation of Education (ICFES): Research grant (2014, 2015)

Universidad EAFIT: Masters Full Scholarship (2012-2013)

Central Bank of Bolivia: National Award on Economic Research (2009)

Skills

Languages English (advanced), Spanish (native), French (beginner)

Software Microsoft Office, Stata, R, Spss, Eviews, QualtricsXM, LaTeX