

Leonardo Bonilla Mejía

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Employment	Banco de la República de Colombia <i>Researcher</i> : Labor Economics Research Group. Team Leader: Juan José Ospina.	2016 to present
Education	Ph.D. in Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Thesis: Three Essays on Education Decisions in Colombia. Committee: Richard Akresh (Chair), Elizabeth Powers, Daniel McMillen, and Adam Osman.	2011-2016
	M.Sc. in Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	2013
	B.A. in Economics, Universidad Nacional de Colombia	2003-2008
Fields	Development Economics, Education Economics, Environmental Economics.	
Publications	Mining and Human Capital Accumulation: Evidence from the Colombian Gold Rush. <i>Journal of Development Economics</i> , Vol. 145 (2020).	
	House Prices and School Choice: Evidence from Chicago's Magnet Schools Proximity Lottery, with Esteban López and Daniel McMillen. <i>Journal of Regional Science</i> , Vol. 1, No. 1 (2020).	
	Information Policies and Higher Education Choices: Experimental Evidence from Colombia, with Andrés Ham and Nicolas Bottan. <i>Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics</i> , Vol. 83 (2019).	
	Protected Areas Under Weak Institutions: Evidence from Colombia, with Iván Higuera. <i>World Development</i> , Vol. 122. (2019).	
	External Shocks and International Remittances in the Colombian Regions [<i>in Spanish</i>]. <i>Ensayos Sobre Política Económica</i> . No. 84. (2018).	
	Who Chooses an Education Degree in Colombia? Characterizing the Education Degree Students Using Their Exit Exam Performance [<i>in Spanish</i>], with Juan Barón, Lina Cardona, and Monica Ospina. <i>Desarrollo y Sociedad</i> , Universidad de los Andes. No. 74. (2014).	
	Unequal Distribution of Qualified Teachers in Colombia [<i>in Spanish</i>], with Luis A. Galvis. <i>Economía Institucional</i> , Universidad Externado de Colombia. No. 26. (2012).	
	Professionalization of Teachers and Quality of School Education in Colombia [<i>in Spanish</i>], with Luis A. Galvis. <i>Ensayos Sobre Política Económica</i> , Vol. 29, No. 68. (2012).	
	Regional Differences in Income Distribution in Colombia [<i>in Spanish</i>]. <i>Sociedad y Economía</i> , Universidad del Valle. Vol. 21. (2011).	
	Double-shift Schools and Quality of Education in Colombia [<i>in Spanish</i>]. <i>Coyuntura Económica</i> , Fedesarrollo. Vol. 41, No. 1. (2011).	
	Intergenerational Mobility of Education in the Cities and Regions of Colombia [<i>in Spanish</i>]. <i>Revista de Economía del Rosario</i> , Universidad del Rosario. Vol. 13, No. 2. (2010).	

Demographics, Youth and Homicides in Colombia, 1979-2006 [*in Spanish*]. *Lecturas de Economía*, Universidad de Antioquia. No. 72. (2010).

Determinants of the Regional Differences in Income Distribution in Colombia, a Micro-Decomposition Analysis [*in Spanish*]. *Ensayos Sobre Política Económica*, Vol. 27, No. 59. (2010).

Country Risk Ratings and Financial Crises 1995-2001: A Survival Analysis, with Andrés García and Mónica Roa. *The Review of Business Journal*, Vol 29, No. 3. (2009).

Book Chapters Interest Rate Pass-through in Colombia: A Multivariate Switching Regime Model Approach [*in Spanish*], with Rocío Betancourt and Martha Misas. In Jalil, M. and Mhadeva, L. [Eds], Monetary policy transmission mechanisms in Colombia. (2011) Universidad Externado de Colombia - Banco de la República.

Working Papers Political Alignment in the Time of Weak Parties: Electoral Advantages and Subnational Transfers in Colombia, with Iván Higuera.

Jam-barrel Politics: Road Building and Legislative Voting in Colombia, with Juan Morales.

Trade Imbalance? Effects of Import Penetration on Workers and Firms in Colombia, with Juan Muñoz.

Do High School Peers Influence Higher Education Decisions? An Endogenous Network Approach.

Selected Work in Progress The Labor Market of Immigrants and Non-Immigrants: Evidence from the Venezuelan Refugee Crisis, with Leonardo Morales, Didier Hermida, and Luz Flórez.

When "green" production is not environmentally friendly: The effects of forestry expansion on local labor markets in Chile, with Esteban López.

Marginal Effects of Overlapping Protected Areas: Evidence from the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, with Javier Pérez and Iván Higuera.

School retention and crime, evidence from a nationwide education policy in Colombia, with Andrés Ham, Carlos Medina, and Christian Posso.

Female teachers and STEM: do teachers' skills matter?, with Lina Cardona and Erika Londoño.

Distance from government and rural schools disadvantage, with Erika Londoño.

Previous Employment The World Bank: Education Global Practice 2015-2016
Consultant: Financial analysis of the education sector of Haiti.
Team Leader: Juan Barón.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Department of Economics 2013-2016
Graduate Research Assistant: Political polarization.
Professors: Stefan Krassa and Mattias Polborn.

Banco de la República de Colombia 2008-2011
Research Analyst: Income inequality and education.
Team Leader: Adolfo Meisel.

Banco de la República de Colombia 2007-2008

Research Assistant: Monetary policy and macroeconometrics.
 Researchers: Martha Misas and Enrique López.

Teaching Experience	University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign <i>Teaching Assistant:</i> Intermediate microeconomics.	2012
	Universidad Tecnológica de Bolívar <i>Instructor:</i> Intermediate econometrics, regional economics.	2009-2011
	Universidad Nacional de Colombia <i>Teaching Assistant:</i> Basic and intermediate statistics.	2006-2007
Awards and Fellowships	Società italiana di economia pubblica <i>SIEP prize</i>	2019
	International Sustainable Development Research Society <i>Best Paper Award:</i> First Runner-up.	2017
	North American Regional Science Association <i>Graduate-Student-Led Paper Competition:</i> First place.	2016
	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign <i>McNatt Memorial Award (2015), Department of Economics Summer Research Fellowship (2013, 2015), Tinker Foundation's Field Research Grant (2012).</i>	2011-2016
	Banco de la República de Colombia <i>Economics Ph.D. Full Scholarship.</i>	2011-2015
	Banco Central de Guatemala <i>Manuel Noriega Morales Research Award Paper:</i> Second place.	2010
	Universidad Nacional de Colombia <i>Best GPA Scholarship:</i> Five semesters.	2003-2008
Invited Seminars and Conference Presentations	<i>2019:</i> Midwest International Economic Development Conference (MWIEDC), Workshop on agricultural economics and rural development, North East Universities Development Consortium Conference (NEUDC), Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Universidad del Norte.	
	<i>2018:</i> Midwest International Economic Development Conference (MWIEDC), Sustainability and development Conference, Colombian Economics Conference, Universidad Adolfo Ibañez, Universidad EAFIT, Universidad del Norte, Departamento Nacional de Planeación (DNP).	
	<i>2017:</i> Midwest International Economic Development Conference (MWIEDC), International Sustainable Development Research Society Conference (ISDRS), Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA), Seminario Internacional de Investigación ICFES, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Universidad ICESI.	
	<i>2016:</i> North American Meeting of the Regional Science Association International (NARSC), Regional Economics Applications Laboratory (REAL).	
	<i>2015:</i> Development Day - University of Michigan, North American Meeting of the Regional Science Association International (NARSC), Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Meeting, Regional Economics Applications Laboratory (REAL).	
	<i>2014:</i> North American Meeting of the Regional Science Association International (NARSC), Regional Economics Applications Laboratory (REAL), Pontificia Universidad Javeriana.	

2013: Applied Economics, Regional and Urban Studies Conference (AERUS), Regional Economics Applications Laboratory (REAL).

2011: ICFES, Fedesarrollo.

2009: Regional Science Association for the Americas (RSAI).

Professional Service

Referee: Regional Science and Urban Economics, Regional Science Policy and Practice, Ensayos Sobre Política Económica, Desarrollo y Sociedad, Revista de Economía del Rosario, Cuadernos de Economía, Lecturas de Economía, Economía Institucional, Estudios Gerenciales.

Languages

Spanish (Native), English, French, and Italian (Fluent).

Coding Skills

R, Stata, Matlab, GIS.

Last updated: March 2020