

Laura Chioda

Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley Ph.D., 2005
Fields: Econometric Theory, Public Finance, Labor
Dissertation: Essays in Econometrics on Limit of Experiments and Identification in Nonlinear Models

Bocconi University, Milan, Italy Laurea (MA), 1998
Fields: Economics & Statistics, *Cum Laude*

EMPLOYMENT & AFFILIATIONS

Chief Research Scientist, Institute for Business and Social Impact Nov 2024 – present
Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley

Director of Research, O'Donnell Center for Behavioral Economics Apr 2024 – Apr 2025
Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley

Director of Research, Institute for Business and Social Impact, Haas School of Business, Dec 2020 – Apr 2024
Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley

Director of Research, Lab for Inclusive FinTech (LIFT) and Wells Fargo Research Lab
for Sustainable Financial Services and Innovation (raised \$9,600,000)

Visiting Scholar, *Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley* Nov 2019 – Nov 2020

Senior Economist, Office of the Chief Economist Sep 2017 – Nov 2020
Equitable Growth, Finance, & Institutions (EFI), *The World Bank*

Visiting Scholar, *Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley* Spring 2016, 2017, 2018

Co-Lead, Program on Fragility, Conflict, and Crime and Violence Sep 2014 – Nov 2020
Development Impact Evaluation (DIME), *The World Bank*

Senior Economist, Office of the Chief Economist Jul 2011 – Sep 2017
Latin America and the Caribbean, *The World Bank*

Research Economist, Office of the Chief Economist Sep 2008 – Jun 2011
Latin America and the Caribbean (LCRCE), *The World Bank*

Assistant Professor (Econometrics), Department of Economics, *Princeton University* Jul 2005 – Sep 2008

TEACHING

Public Policy / Haas Business School, University of California, Berkeley

- Quantitative Methods and Impact Evaluation, Fall 2021, Fall 2022

Department of Economics, Princeton University

- Undergraduate Econometrics, Fall 2005, Fall 2006
- Graduate Econometric Theory, Fall 2005, Fall 2006
- Graduate Advanced Topics in Econometrics, Spring 2007

Department of Economics, University of California, Berkeley

- Graduate Student Instructor: Graduate Econometrics, Graduate Microeconomics, Graduate Mathematics for Economists, Undergraduate Econometrics

Department of Environmental and Territorial Engineering, Politecnico di Milano

- Lecturer in Public Economics, Spring 1999

PUBLICATIONS, REFEREED BOOKS, REPORTS

- *Honduras Safer Municipalities Project: Impact Evaluation of the Temporary Jobs Program for at-Risk Youth*, 2024. WBG Report (with B. Feigenberg and M. Holmlund).
- *Youth Leadership Training Educate! Experience in Uganda: 4-Year Follow-Up Report*, 2019 (with D. Carney, P. Gertler, C. Boone, D. Contreras, A. Jager, and A. Kwan).
- Comments on “Fighting Political Corruption: Evidence from Brazil” by C. Ferraz and F. Finan, in *Institutions, Governance and the Control of Corruption*, Eds. K. Basu and T. Cordella, 2018. International Economic Association Series, Palgrave Macmillan.
- *Stop the Violence in Latin America: A Look at Prevention from Cradle to Adulthood*, 2017. Latin American Development Forum, Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Spillovers from Conditional Cash Transfer Programs: Bolsa Família and Crime in Urban Brazil, 2016 (with J. M. de Mello and R. Soares), *Economics of Education Review*, v54 issue C, 306–320.
- *Work & Family: Latin American and Caribbean Women in Search of a New Balance*, 2016, Latin American Development Forum, Washington, DC: World Bank.
- *Making Brazilians Safer: Analyzing the Dynamics of Violent Crime*, 2013 (with R. Serrano-Berthet), World Bank Report.
- *Por um Brasil mais seguro – uma análise da dinâmica do crime e da violência*, 2012 (with R. Serrano-Berthet), *Revista Brasileira De Segurança Pública*, v6 n1, 172–202.
- *Optimal Invariant Inference when the Number of Instruments is Large*, 2009 (with M. Jansson), *Econometric Theory*, 25, 793–805.
- *Public Policies and the Income Distribution in the UK (1979–1993): A Nonparametric Approach*, 1999, *Econpublica Review*, Bocconi University.

WORKING PAPERS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

- Making Entrepreneurs: Long Term Returns to Training Youth in Business Skills, 2026 (with P. Gertler, D. Contreras-Loya, and D. Carney), NBER WP No. w34637.
- FinTech Lending to Borrowers with No Credit History Leveraging AI/ML, 2025 (with P. Gertler, S. Higgins, and P. Medina). *Revise and Resubmit at Journal of Financial Economics*.
- Which Teacher Skills Matter: A Value Added Approach, 2026 (with P. Gertler and N. Kohli).
- Building Better Negotiators? Experimental Evidence Leveraging Natural Language Processing, 2025 (with D. Carney, P. Gertler, and J. Martinez).
- Scaling Student Mental Health Support: A Randomized Evaluation of Stepped Care 2.0 and AI Wellness Tools at UC Berkeley (with P. Gertler).
- Novel Use of Data in Fintech, 2022 (with P. Gertler, I. Macdonald, and A. Wellsjo), SSRN WP 347119 .
- New Players in Fintech Markets, 2022 (with P. Gertler, I. Macdonald, and A. Wellsjo), SSRN WP 5347113.
- Empowering Women: Teaching Leadership Skills to Youth in Uganda, 2023 (with P. Gertler, P. Zanolco, and N. Perales).
- Crime and Punishment: The Impact of Violence on Economic Activity, 2023 (with P. Gertler and J. Urrego).
- Making Entrepreneurs: Returns to Training Youth in Hard Versus Soft Business Skills, 2021 (with D. Contreras-Loya, P. Gertler, and D. Carney), NBER WP No. w28845.
- Subjective Evaluations of Standards of Living and Aspirations, 2017 (with W. Maloney) – featured in the World Bank President’s positioning speech for the 2017 Spring Meetings and the 2018 Fall Meetings.
- On the Dynamics of Homicides in Latin America and the Caribbean: 1995 to 2010, 2015.
- Hysteresis in Crime and Violence in Brazil, 2003–2008, 2014 (with L.-D. Rojas-Alvarado).

- Toward a Conceptual Framework for the Knowledge Bank, 2013 (with A. de la Torre and W. Maloney), World Bank Policy Research Paper No. 6623.
- Long Run Trends in Female Labor Force Participation in Latin American: The Role of Family Formation, 2012.
- Do Procurement Rules Impact Infrastructure Investment Efficiency? An Empirical Analysis of Inversão das Fases in São Paulo State, 2011 (with L. Blancas, T. Cordella, A. Oliveira, and F. Vardy), World Bank Policy Research Paper No. 5528.
- Compulsory Schooling and Female Labor Force Participation: Evidence from Colombia and Kenya, 2011.
- Optimal Conditional Inference for Instrumental Variables Regression, 2006 (with M. Jansson).
- Estimating Euler Equations with Measurement Error: A Nonparametric Approach, 2006.
- How Does Consumption Respond to Retirement in Italy? A Test of the Permanent Income Hypothesis, 2002.

FIELD WORK & FUND RAISING

Raised over \$10.3M for Research Projects

- **Good Reputation: Expanding Access to Credit Leveraging Reputational and Social Network Data**, 2025 (PI, with P. Gertler), IPA ESPD-BMGF \$150,000.
- **Teaching Innovation and Entrepreneurial Mindset at Scale** (Udhyam, India), 2024 (PI, with P. Gertler).
- **Improving Mental Health Outcomes of Students: Evaluation of Stepped Care Solutions** (PI, with P. Gertler and J. Martinez).
- **SEED Scale-up RCT: 10,000 Students in Uganda** (PI, with P. Gertler) – Founders Pledge \$3,370,000 in 2023; USAID DIV \$1,386,000 in December 2024. Led collaboration with *AllDay TA* on LLM development to support Digital SEED Curriculum.
- **Moving Youth Away from the Market for Crime: Interventions in the Honduras Safer Municipalities Project** (PI, with B. Feigenberg and M. Holmlund) – Raised \$1,200,000 from i2i (DFID), State and Peacebuilding Trust Fund, World Bank Jobs Trust Fund, Unorthodox Philanthropy.
 - Social Network Mapping and Analysis of Youth in High-Violence Urban Neighborhoods in Honduras – Raised \$130,000 from Knowledge for Change Program (DECRG, World Bank).
- **Making Entrepreneurs: The Returns to Teaching Youth Hard and Soft Entrepreneurial Skills in Uganda** (PI, with P. Gertler and D. Carney; two separate RCTs):
 - Educate! 4-year follow-up – Raised \$300,500 from Global Innovation Fund, IPA-Intimate Partner Violence Initiative 2017.
 - SEED and Educate! 8-year follow-ups – Raised \$1,734,000 from IPA-Intimate Partner Violence Initiative 2019, JPAL Post-Primary Education Initiative 2019, IDRC 2019, CEDIL Jan 2020, IPA-SME Women’s Work, Entrepreneurship, and Skilling (WWES) Initiative, JPAL Jobs and Opportunity Initiative 2021.
 - Educate!/SEED IPA Methods Grant “Machine Learning Methods to Validate Soft Skills Measures in Field Experiments” 2020, \$74,000.
- **Women’s Empowerment through Digital Credit with Credit Scoring Models for Women: A Machine Learning Approach to Gendered Credit Scoring Models** (PI, with J. Blumenstock, P. Gertler, S. Higgins, P. Medina) – Raised \$761,125.38 from World Bank Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality, USAID, Digital Credit Observatory, UN Data 2X.
- **Experimental Impact Evaluation of a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy-based Intervention Targeting At-Risk Young Men in Mexico** (PI, with JPAL, Observatorio de Desarrollo Regional y Promoción Social and World Bank-DIME) – Raised \$370,000 from Open Society Foundations and State and Peacebuilding Trust Fund.
- **REPENSAR: Soft Skills and Recidivism. Measuring the Impact of a Pretrial Diversion Program in Mexico for Youth Aged 12–29** (PI, with P. Gertler and the Office of the Attorney General for Mexico and the Ministry of Prevention) – Raised \$150,000 from Open Society Foundations.

- **Breaking the Vicious Cycle between Low Productivity and High Crime and Violence in El Salvador: Vocational and Soft Skills for Youth** (PI) – Raised \$500,000 from i2i (DFID), State and Peacebuilding Trust Fund, World Bank Jobs Trust Fund.
- **Support for Crime and Violence Research in Latin America** – Raised \$200,000 from Spanish Trust Fund Research.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Organizer and Member of the Scientific Committee for Financial Inclusion conferences: LIFT-DCO (2022), LIFT-IFC(2023), LIFT- IPA Private Sector (2024); LIFT-University of Chile (2026)
- Advisor for the World Bank Conference “Innovating Bureaucracy,” co-organized by the Office of the Chief Economist for Equitable Growth, Finance, & Institutions and the Governance Global Practice, 2018.
- Organizer for CEGA-WB (EFICE) Workshop “Advancing the Research Agenda for Financial Inclusion,” 2016.
- Member of Scientific Committee for LACEA Annual Meetings, 2015, 2016; Annual Meeting of America Latina Crime and Policy Network (AL CAPONE), 2016, 2017; Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics, 2017.
- Member of Scientific Committee for the Annual Bank Conference on Africa “Confronting Conflict and Fragility in Africa,” UC Berkeley, 2015.
- Grant Reviewer for USAID-DIV, i2i DIME-DFID and SIEF Trust Fund; RSB, Research Budget Support (DECRG, WBG).

SELECTED CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, AND INVITED SEMINARS

Academic Presentations: UC-Berkeley; Princeton University; Caltech; University of Wisconsin; Yale University; University of Michigan; University of Pittsburgh; Syracuse University; Boston University; Boston College; UC-Santa Barbara; University of British Columbia; Annual Bank Conference on Africa: Confronting Conflict and Fragility in Africa; Stanford University’s Center on Democracy, Development and Rule of Law; UCLA-ALCAPONE; Universidad Torcuato Di Tella; University of Surrey; Research Institute for Development, Growth and Economics (RIDGE), Montevideo Uruguay; Brazilian Econometric Society; LACEA (Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru); Justice Sector Training, Research and Coordination Program Symposium; IPA webinars.

Policy Presentations: U.S. Department of State; USAID; Organization of American States (OAS); IADB; National Commission to End All Forms of Violence against Children and Adolescents (Comisión para poner fin a toda forma de violencia contra niñas, niños y adolescentes), Secretariat of the Interior (SEGOB), Mexico; USAID Crime Prevention through Environmental Design workshop; presentations to the Governor of Ceará, Brazil, to the Federal Minister of Education, Brazil, in Brasília and to the Federal Minister of Security, Brazil, in Brasília; São Paulo University; Educate! NGO; Ministry of Security and Prevention, Argentina; USAID Rule of Law and Organized Crime Roundtable (with the National Security Council Director for Transnational Organized Crime and with U.S. Department of Justice staff); USAID-DOJ-JPAL closed door event for DOJ and USAID staff: What Works in Youth Prevention.

Policy Makers Training Workshops: USAID-JPAL Workshop in Mexico on “The Use of Evidence in Preventing Youth Violence: Challenges and Opportunities in Latin America, with an Emphasis on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy”; WBG Impact Evaluation Training Workshop in Peru on Social Development Projects (organized by SIEF); DIME Workshop on Crime and Violence Prevention in Portugal; DIME Workshop on Governance in Turkey; DIME Workshop on Agriculture and Technology Adoption in Kenya and Brazil.

REFEREEING

Econometrica, Quarterly Journal of Economics, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Public Economics, Economics of Education Review, Journal of Law and Economics, The World Bank Economic Review, Development Engineering, USAID-DIV.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Expertise: Econometrics; Machine Learning; Causal Inference in Applied Research; Field Experiments (A/B testing)

Languages: English (fluent), Italian (native), French (conversational), Spanish (conversational)

Software: R, Python, Stata, ArcGIS (basic), SurveyCTO, L^AT_EX

Affiliations: American Economic Association, Econometric Society, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, LACEA

Citizenship: Italy, US Permanent Resident