

CAROLINA LOPEZ
www.jcarolinalopez.com
carolina_lopez@alumni.brown.edu

Personal Information:

Female, Salta-Argentina.

Graduate Studies:

M.A. in Economics, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, summa cum laude, 2012.

Ph.D. Student in Economics, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, 2012-2015.

Ph.D. in Economics, Brown University, 2015-2022.

Position:

2022-2023 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School

2023- Research Economist, The World Bank Research Group

Research Fields:

Primary fields: Development Economics, Economics of Education, Behavioral Economics

Secondary fields: Labor Economics

Teaching Experience:

Fall, 2018 The Economics of Latin Americans, undergraduate level Brown University,
Teaching Assistant for Professor Pedro Dal Bó

Spring, 2017 Applied Economics Analysis, graduate PhD in Economics level Brown University,
Teaching Assistant for Professor Anja Sautmann

2012-2015 International Economics, BA in Economics, Universidad Nacional de La Plata Aires,
Teaching Assistant for Professors Natalia Porto and Martin Cicowiez

2011-2015 Development Economics, BA in Economics, Universidad de Buenos Aires,
Teaching Assistant for Professor Maria Laura Alzua

Research Experience and Other Employment:

Fall, 2021 Brown University, Research Assistant for Professor Pedro Dal Bó

Summer, 2021 The World Bank, Consultant

Spring, 2019 Brown University, Research Assistant for Professor Pedro Dal Bó

Summer, 2017 Brown University, Research Assistant for Professor Anja Sautmann

Fall, 2016 Brown University, Research Assistant for Professor Anja Sautmann

Summer, 2015 The World Bank, Consultant

2011-2015 CEDLAS (Center for Distributive, Labor, and Social Studies) at Universidad
Nacional de La Plata, Research Assistant and Junior Researcher

Professional Activities:

Presentations

Fall, 2023 International Economic Association,* Southern Economic Association*

Spring, 2023 Pacific Conference for Development Economics (PacDev), Society of Labor
Economics (SOLE)

Fall, 2022 Economics and Social Policy Seminar Series (Harvard University)

Spring, 2022 Economic Science Association, Association for Education Finance and Policy
(AEFP)

Fall, 2021 Applied Microeconomics Lunch Seminar, Brown University; Department of
Economics at Universidad Nacional de La Plata; Rising Scholars Conference
Harvard Business School; LACEA RIDGE Job Market Showcase; Asociación

Argentina de Economía Política at Universidad de Buenos Aires; NEUDC;
Economic Science Association Job Market Seminar
Spring, 2021 Population Association of America, Washington
Fall, 2020 Applied Microeconomics Lunch Seminar, Brown University
Spring, 2020 Universidad Católica de Salta, Argentina; Applied Microeconomics Lunch Seminar,
Brown University
Spring, 2019 Population Association of America, Austin
Fall, 2018 Applied Microeconomics Lunch Seminar, Brown University
Spring, 2017 Applied Microeconomics Lunch Seminar, Brown University
Spring, 2015 Canadian Economic Association, Ryerson University
* Scheduled

Affiliations

2015-Present Visiting Researcher, CEDLAS (Center for Distributive, Labor, and Social Studies)
at Universidad Nacional de La Plata

Referee

Oxford Development Studies, American Economic Review, Review of Economics and Statistics,
Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Económica.

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

Fall-2021 George Borts' Prize in recognition of an outstanding Ph.D. dissertation. Department
of Economics. Brown University.
2020-2021 Interdisciplinary Opportunities in the Humanities and Social Sciences, 2020-21.
Population Studies and Training Center. Brown University.
Spring-2020 Merit Dissertation Fellowship. Department of Economics. Brown University.
2017-2018 Fellowship. Graduate Program in Development. Watson Institute for International
and Public Affairs. Brown University.
2013-2015 Research Fellowship. Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas
(CONICET). Buenos Aires, Argentina.
2013 Distinguished Graduate Award for the Highest GPA of the M.A. in Economics.
Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP). Buenos Aires, Argentina.
2012 Best Argentine Young Economist Award. Asociación Argentina de Economía
Política (AAEP).
2012 Best grade in the class 2010. Master's Degree in Economics. Universidad Nacional
de La Plata (UNLP).
2010 Scholarship. Master's Degree in Economics. Universidad Nacional de La Plata
(UNLP).
2009-2012 Research Fellowship. Consejo de Investigación de la Universidad Nacional de Salta
(CIUNSa).

Research Grants:

Summer-2021 Summer Funding, Graduate Program in Development. Watson Institute for
International and Public Affairs, Brown University (\$1,000)
Spring-2021 Bravo Center Award, Department of Economics, Brown University (\$1,000)
Fall-2020 Bravo Center Award, Department of Economics, Brown University (\$1,000)
Summer-2019 Award for Research Proposals on "Human capital formation and youth access to
high-quality employment in Latin America" CAF-Development Bank of Latin
America (\$6,000)
Summer-2019 Summer Award to Promote Population Research Projects, Population Studies and
Training Center, Brown University (\$1,200)

Summer-2019	Summer Funding, Graduate Program in Development. Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University (\$1,000)
Spring-2018	Sarmiento Research Award for Latin American Studies. Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), Brown University (\$2,500)
Summer-2018	Summer Funding, Graduate Program in Development. Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University (\$2,000)
Summer-2018 2017	Global Health Scholarship, Global Health Initiative, Brown University (\$3,500) Graduate School International Travel Grant, Brown University (\$800); PSTC Travel Grant. Brown University (\$400)

Publications:

- “Exacerbated Inequalities: the Learning Loss from COVID-19 in Italy” (with Michela Carlana and Eliana La Ferrara), *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, vol. 113, pp. 489-493 (2023).
- “Does Patient Demand Contribute to the Overuse of Prescription Drugs?” (with Anja Sautmann and Simone Schaner), *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, vol. 14, number 1, 225–260 (2022).
- “Long-run effects of youth training programs: Experimental evidence from Argentina” (with María Laura Alzúa and Guillermo Cruces) *Economic Inquiry*, vol. 54, issue 4, pp. 1839–1859 (2016).
- “Effect of a community-led sanitation intervention on child diarrhoea and child growth in rural Mali: A cluster randomized controlled trial” (with Amy Pickering, Habiba Djebbari, Massa Coulibaly, and Maria Laura Alzua). *The Lancet Global Health*, vol. 3, number 11, pp. 701–711 (2015).
- “The long and winding road towards fiscal decentralization” (with María Laura Alzúa). *Económica – Universidad Nacional de La Plata*, vol. LX, pp. 3-43 (2014).
- “Un Analisis Multidimensional de la Pobreza: Evidencia Reciente de las Regiones de Argentina” (with Romina Safojan). *Revista de Economía Política de Buenos Aires - Universidad de Buenos Aires (REPBA)*, 7, vol. 12, pp. 9-44 (2013).

Research Papers:

“Tripping at the Finish Line: Experimental Evidence on the Role of Misperceptions on Secondary School Completion”

Students may put insufficient effort into graduating due to inaccurate beliefs about graduation probabilities or the economic benefits of obtaining a high school diploma, missing out on large economic returns. In an experiment with senior high-school students in Argentina, I test the effectiveness of providing information about efficiently allocating effort during senior year, to correct beliefs about their graduation chances. A separate group receives information about the returns to education. The treatments increase graduation by 10 and 20 percent, respectively, and college enrollment by 38 percent. Graduation improvements are larger for students with a lower probability of graduating at baseline.

“The Economics Performance of Native Groups in Argentina” with Pedro Dal Bó

In this paper, we study the economic and human development outcomes of native peoples in Argentina. We find worse results, on average, for native peoples than non-native peoples. The magnitude of the differences is, on average, 10 percent of the standard deviation. We also study the difference in the intergenerational transmission of education between natives and non-natives. Finally, we describe the differences in economic and human development outcomes among the different native groups, finding significant differences, and study whether these differences correlate with a characteristic of their pre-Columbian economy: the practice of agriculture.

“Do Patients Value High-Quality Care? Patient Satisfaction and the Allocation of Malaria Treatment” with Anja Sautmann and Simone Schaner

Can basic training on the value of diagnostic tests improve provider practice and help patients recognize higher quality of care? We experimentally study these questions in the context of malaria testing and treatment in Mali. A first intervention randomly assigned clinics to receive training about the accuracy of rapid diagnostic tests; a second, cross-cut intervention gave patients information about the tests. The clinic training shifts provider beliefs and increases reliance on the tests, which improves the match between a patient's malaria status and receipt of

antimalarials by 14-24 percent. Nonetheless, patients are significantly less satisfied with care received, driven by those whose prior beliefs do not match their true malaria status. Moreover, the patient information intervention does not affect treatment outcomes or patient satisfaction but does reduce malaria testing. These findings suggest that patients hold persistent beliefs about their own illnesses that limit their ability to recognize improved quality of care.

Research Papers in Progress

“Self- vs. Social-image Concerns: Evidence from Teenagers in Salta, Argentina” with Santiago Hermo
Our research speaks to the problem of low high-school graduation rates in developing countries. To study this question, we analyze the impact of an intervention in the province of Salta, Argentina. The first one took place in one school that did not allow students who do not pass all subjects by the end of the academic year to participate in the graduation ceremony (traditionally, students are allowed to participate even if they do not have a passing grade in all subjects). Since the program started in 2015 the graduation rate increased by 14 p.p. and the school authorities attribute this result to the success of the program.

“Shifts and high-school graduation” with Natalia Cantet, Santiago Hermo, and Juan Pedro Ronconi
We study the effects of randomization of school shifts (morning or afternoon) at the beginning of secondary school on academic achievement and behavior. Evidence on this question is mixed, with some papers suggesting that later shifts benefit from improved sleeping, whereas others emphasizing that later shifts induce risky behavior in the students earlier in life, harming academic achievement. We will analyze the complete entire trajectory of these students while in high school to determine the impact of school shift at each age, and assess the role of peers and parents.