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Education

Ph.D. Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Connecticut
(Expected Completion Date: Fall 2020)
Committee: Richard Dunn (Major advisor), Charles Towe, and Nathan Fiala

M.S. Applied and Resource Economics, University of Connecticut, 2015

B.A. (Equivalent) Economics, with Honors. Universidad de Los Hemisferios, Quito – Ecuador, 2011

Fields of Interest

Applied Microeconomics; Health Economics; Development

Research Output

Publications

Barriga A., Fiala N. (2020). *The Seed Supply Chain in Uganda: Where Does It All Go Wrong?* World Development, Volume 130, 2020, 104928. Doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2020.104928

Research in Progress

Barriga A., Ferguson N., Fiala N., and Leroch M. *Ethnic Cooperation and Conflict in Kenya* (Submitted, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization)

Barriga A. *The Effect of Mass Migration on Malaria Incidence: Evidence from the Venezuelan Refugee Crisis*, Job Market Paper.

Barriga A. *Environmental Conservation and Public Health: The effects of Protected Areas on Malaria Incidence in the Brazilian Amazon*.

Barriga A., Swallow S. K. *Attitudes and Choices in the Face of Sea Level Rise in a Diverse City in the US*.

Policy Briefs

Barriga A., Fiala N. *The Supply Chain for Maize Seed in Uganda*. International Growth Center (IGC). May, 2018

Conferences and Presentations

Upcoming, 2021

- Allied Social Sciences Association (ASSA) Annual Meeting, virtual

2020

- International Association for Applied Econometrics Conference (cancelled due to COVID-19)

- Japanese Association of Development Economics - CEPR Conference (cancelled due to COVID-19)

2019

- Yale University, Global Environmental Justice Conference, Emerging Scholars, New Haven, CT

- University of Michigan, Sustainability and Development Conference, Ann Arbor, MI

- Hitotsubashi University Summer Institute, Japanese Association of Development Economics, Tokyo, Japan

2018

- University of Michigan, Sustainability and Development Conference, Ann Arbor, MI

- College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources (CAHNR) Annual Research Meeting, Storrs, CT

- Universidad de Las Americas, Applied Econometrics Methods, Seminar Series, Quito, Ecuador

2016

- National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Social Coast Forum, Charleston, SC

Research Experience

University of Connecticut

Research Assistant, 2015 - 2020

PI: Prof. Marlene Schwartz and Prof. Kim Gans

Project: "Federally - Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and Food Pantry Linkages to Address the Needs of Food Insecure Patients", 2019 - 2020

PI: Prof. Nathan Fiala

Project: "The General Equilibrium Effects of Cooking Stoves on Price, Environmental Awareness, and Women Empowerment in Rwanda"

Project: "The Supply Chain of Seeds in Uganda, 2018 - 2019"

PI: Prof. Stephen Swallow

Project: "Understanding the Trade-offs Between Build Assets for Inland Coastal Residents in the Connecticut Coastline", 2015 - 2017

Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), Renewable Energy Division, Quito - Ecuador

Research Intern, 2011

PI: Dr. Eduardo Noboa

Project: "Ethanol Boom in Colombia and Lessons Learned for the Region"

Project: "Supply and Demand for Energy Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean", presented at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization Conference in Asuncion, Paraguay, 2011

Teaching Experience

Universidad de Los Hemisferios

Instructor, 2012 - 2013 (Research Methods; Principles of Statistics; Principles of Macroeconomics)

Tutor, Extension Service, 2011 - 2012 (Environmental Education in Rural Communities; Entrepreneurship)

Awards and Fellowships

- Travel Award, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, 2018, 2019, and 2020
- Travel Award, Japanese Association of Development Economics Conference, Hitotsubashi University, 2019
- Dissertation Fellowship, UConn Graduate School, 2020
- Predoctoral Fellowship, UConn Graduate School, 2019
- Predoctoral Fellowship, UConn College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resource (CAHNR), 2016
- Graduate Studies Fellowship, Ecuadorian Government National Science Secretariat, 2013 - 2017
- Undergraduate Studies Scholarship, Universidad de Los Hemisferios, Ecuador, 2006-2010

Research Grants

- The Seed Supply Chain in Uganda. UConn Research Excellence Program (unfunded). Drafted proposal, 2019
- Public Values for Wetland Expansion, as Bridgeport- CT Adapts to Sea Level Rise. Connecticut Sea Grant, Seed Grant. Principal Investigator, 2015

Professional Activities and Service

- Referee: Review of Economics and Statistics
- Affiliations: American Economic Association, International Health Economics Association, Japanese Association of Development Economics
- Graduate Student Council Representative (College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources), 2019 - 2020

Skills

- Computer: R, Stata, ArcGIS, Ngene, L^AT_EX
- Language: Spanish (Native), English (Advanced), and French (Intermediate)

Abstracts

The Effect of Mass Migration on Malaria Incidence: Evidence from the Venezuelan Refugee Crisis, Job Market Paper

This paper explores the effect of the recent Venezuelan exodus on malaria outbreaks and transmission in the Amazon Rainforest. Migration skyrocketed due to recurrent economic and political crises over the last years. Migrants heading to Brazil commonly travel by land, crossing the Brazil – Venezuela Border in Pacaraima - Roraima. By exploiting mass migration as a quasi-experiment, I find that incidence is 18.59 percent higher in the nearest municipality to the Venezuelan border after the crisis. I conduct tests building on traditional epidemiological models to examine disease transmission across foreign and local groups. Results show persistence of disease within population groups and no statistically significant relationship between rates of infection of either group with rates of infection from the opposite group, or sick Venezuelans correlated with sick Brazilians, or vice versa.

Environmental Conservation and Public Health: The Effects of Protected Areas on Malaria Incidence in the Brazilian Amazon

Over the last decade, a boom in anti-deforestation policies has been linked to changes in malaria incidence worldwide. Recent evidence shows that transformation of forest cover may lead to different impacts on vector-borne disease transmission, ranging from positive and large effects in Indonesia to no effects in Nigeria. This paper explores the Brazilian case. By exploiting enforcement of Protected Areas (PAs) in Brazil in 2000 as a quasi-experiment, I find that between 2000-2018, municipalities that declared PAs with less deforestation tend to exhibit less cases of malaria than the high deforestation counterfactual. PAs with high deforestation lead to 9.74 percent cases of malaria on average, or roughly 12 times the effect of low deforestation PAs. Placebo tests are conclusive with deforestation of thick canopy driving higher malaria rates. This paper contributes to the literature by shedding light on the dynamics of protected areas, ecosystem change, and human health. A better understanding on the interplay between conservation and public health will help policy makers couple actions to prevent unintended consequences, as disease prevalence.

Ethnic Cooperation and Conflict in Kenya, with Neil Ferguson, Nathan Fiala, and Martin Leroch

There is growing evidence that ethnic divisions and conflict experience affect social capital and economic interactions, in both positive and negative ways. However, recent work has suggested that the experience of electoral violence in Kenya does not correlate with laboratory behavior between the two largest ethnic groups, the Luo and Kikuyu. We conduct a similar set of experiments measuring social capital and find the same results: altruism, trusting and trustworthy behavior, and cooperation between these two ethnic groups are not affected by priming people on the ethnic identity of their partners or on the salience of election conflict. Our findings suggest electoral violence does not necessarily lead to changes in behavior between ethnic groups and that cooperative failure across groups may be easily overstated or have other mechanisms.