

## **DIANA CONTRERAS SUÁREZ**

Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research - University of Melbourne

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I like my research to be driven by questions on how public policy improves the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged populations. My work focuses on understanding the mechanisms of human capital formation throughout the life cycle. I use applied econometrics techniques to look into those questions and most of my expertise is in developing countries.

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### **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

Research Fellow

Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research

University of Melbourne

2017-present

Research Fellow – (External contracts)

Department of Econometrics, Monash University

2015 - 2017

### **EDUCATION**

PhD Econometrics, Monash University

2011 - 2015

M.Sc. Economics, Universidad Nacional de Colombia

2006- 2008

B.A. Economics, Universidad Nacional de Colombia,

2000- 2005

### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Development Economics, Health Economics, Program Evaluation.

### **ACADEMIC PAPERS**

"Theoretical Underpinnings and Meta-analysis of the Effects of Cash Transfers on Intimate Partner Violence in Low- and Middle-Income Countries", w/ V. Baranov, L. Cameron and C. Thibout – (Forthcoming) *Journal of Development Studies*

"Conditional Cash Transfers: Do They Result in More Patient Choices and Increased Educational Aspirations?", w/ L. Cameron – *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 68(3), 729-761.

"Female Labour Force Participation in Indonesia: Why Has it Stalled?." w/ L. Cameron and W. Rowell *Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies* 55, no. 2 (2019): 157-192.

"Understanding the determinants of maternal mortality: An observational study using the Indonesian Population Census.", w/ L. Cameron and K. Cornwell. *PloS one* 14, no. 6 (2019): e0217386.

"Livelihoods and child welfare among poor rural farmers in East Africa.", w/ B. Inder, C. Kabore, S. Nolan, K. Cornwell, A. Crawford, and J. K. Kamara. *African Development Review* 29, no. 2 (2017): 169-183.

## **WORKING PAPERS**

“Health Spillover effects of a Conditional Cash Transfer Program” w/ P. Maitra. – Revise and Resubmit *Journal of Population Economics*

“Maternal and Neonatal Health Outcomes Associated with Household Water and Sanitation in Indonesia”, w/ L. Cameron and C. Chase

“Linking Children's Physical Development with Cognitive Development in Rural Areas”.

“Gender Wage Gap in Indonesia - a distributional analysis of the formal and informal sector”, w/ L. Cameron

“Women’s Transitions in the Labour Market around Marriage and Childbearing: The Challenges of Formal Sector Employment in Indonesia”, w/ L. Cameron and Y. Tseng

"Role of social support in the relationship between financial hardship and multimorbidity – A causal mediation analysis" w/ A. Singh, T. King and E. You

## **BOOK CHAPTERS**

“Female Labour Force Participation in Indonesia: Why has it stalled?”, w/ L. Cameron and W. Rowell – *Forthcoming*, Proceedings of the Pacific Trade and Development Conference, Japan, 2019.

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

“The economic consequences of disability in Indonesia”, w/ L. Cameron

“Skills mismatch and earning differences for tertiary educated couples”, w/ A. Alisjahbana and P. Pitriyan

“Does more information results in better healthcare? Evidence from National Broadband Network (NBN) expansion”, w/ G. Aschwanden and A. Zaresani

“Theoretical explanations for socioeconomic inequalities in multi-morbidity among adults” w/ A. Singh, T. King and E. You

“Gestational diabetes and mothers and newborn outcomes in Australia”, w/ A. Scott

## **INVITED TALKS AND SEMINARS**

Padjadjaran University 2018, Monash University 2018, Behavioural Business Lab – RMIT 2017, ANU 2017, RMIT 2017, Australian National University 2016, Universidad de los Andes 2016, Melbourne Institute 2015, Australian National University 2014.

## **CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS**

2019: Australian Gender Economics Workshop – RMIT University (presenter and discussant); Australasian Development Economics Workshop – UWA,

2018: 3rd Centre for Social Data Analytics workshop – Auckland University; Australian Gender Economics Workshop – Curtin University (presenter and discussant); Workshop on Current Development Challenges – Monash University (Discussant); 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia – Sydney University; EUHEA – Maastricht University; AHES – Hobart (Australia); Indonesia's Inequalities – University of Melbourne.

2017: Sustainable development workshop – Monash University Prato, Australasian Development Economics Workshop – UNSW, AHES – Macquarie University.

- 2016: Royal Economic Society – University of Sussex, Australasian Development Economics Workshop – Deakin, Summer School for Development Economics – IDEAs (Italy), Sustainable development workshop – Monash University Prato, Workshop Eliciting Subjective Beliefs and Risk and Time Preferences in Developing Countries – Georgia State University, Latin American and Caribbean Economics Association Meeting – EAFIT.
- 2015: Workshop for Emerging Economies – UNSW, Australasian Development Economics Workshop – Monash, Workshop on Human Heights and Economic Development – ANU.
- 2014: Australasian Development Economics Workshop – University of Western Australia.
- 2013: NEUDC - Harvard University, AHES Conference, AHED Workshop, Universidad del Rosario.
- 2012: Econometric Society Australasian Meeting, Australian Health Economics Society Conference.

## **POLICY TALKS**

- 2018: Women’s Economic potential in Indonesia: MAMPU Regional Dialogue – Leave no SHE behind – A Women-Centered Approach to End Poverty, Inequality and to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Indonesia, Jakarta.  
Evaluation of social and economic programs: How do we really improve outcomes? (roundtable): Australian Outlook Conference, Melbourne.
- 2017: Women’s Transitions in the Labour Market (BAPPENAS - Indonesia National Planning Office) Disability Coordination Meeting: Linking Strategies in Addressing Disabilities in Social Protection Program in Indonesia (MAHKOTA)
- 2016: Women’s Economic Empowerment: Labour Force Participation, Projections and Youth Unemployment (BAPPENAS- Indonesia National Planning Office)  
FGD on Female Labour Force Participation (FPLP) and Female Transition in Labour Market (BAPPENAS- Indonesia National Planning Office)
- 2015: FGD on Gender Inequality in Indonesia: Female participation in the labour market (BAPPENAS- Indonesia National Planning Office)
- 2013: Conditional Cash Transfers in Colombia: Nutrition and Development effects (DNP- Colombia National Planning Office)

## **RESEARCH INCOME AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

- “Impact Evaluation of PKH Benefit Level and Structure Changes in 2019” w/ L. Cameron. (A\$50,000) 2019-2020, The World Bank
- “Child Marriage in Indonesia” w/ L. Cameron. (A\$209,600) 2019-2020. DFAT - administered through the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (MAMPU).
- “The Healthier Wealthier Families program: addressing child poverty through better healthcare systems”, w/ S. Goldfeld, M. Kelaher, A. Price and A. Zhu, (\$200,000) 2018-2021, Helen Macpherson Smith Trust
- “Does More Information Results in Better Health Care? Evidence from NBN Expansion in Australia.”, w/ G. Aschwanden and A. Zaresani (A\$9,988.44.) 2018-2019 ESPRIt Hallmark Seed Funding Scheme University of Melbourne.
- “Theoretical explanations for socioeconomic inequalities in multi-morbidity among adults”, w/ A. Singh, T. King and E. You (A\$14,258.38) 2018-2019 ESPRIt Hallmark Seed Funding Scheme University of Melbourne.
- “Social protection programs and children’s development” (A\$24,964) 2018 University of Melbourne ECR Grant.
- “Cash Transfers and Violence against Women”, w/ L. Cameron, V. Baranov, C. Thibout and F.

Witoelar (A\$161,597) 2017 – 2018. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).  
 “Gender wage differences and skills mismatch”, w/ A. Alisjahbana and P. Pitriyan. (A\$9,000) 2017-2018, ANU Indonesia Project and SMERU Research Institute Research Grant.  
 “Disability in Indonesia”, w/ L. Cameron. (A\$65,000) 2016-2017. DFAT - administered through the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Economic Governance (AIPEG).  
 “Gender Inequality in Indonesia”, w/ L. Cameron. (A\$320,000) 2016-2017. DFAT - administered through the (AIPEG).  
 Travel Scholarship, CDES-Monash 2017 (A\$2,000); Travel Scholarship, CDES-Monash 2016 (A\$2,000); Travel Scholarship, ADEW 2013 (A\$1,500); Travel Scholarship, Monash University 2013 (A\$3,000); Travel scholarship, AHES 2012 and 2013 (A\$3,000); Faculty Postgraduate Research Scholarship, Monash University 2011-2014 (A\$92,769); Department Living Allowance Scholarship, Monash University 2011-2014.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### *Lecturer*

Business Statistics, Monash University 2015, 2016 (Undergraduate)  
 Techniques of Economic Measurement, Universidad Javeriana – 2009 (Undergraduate)  
 Introductory Microeconomics, Universidad Del Rosario – 2009 (Undergraduate)  
 Introductory Econometrics, Universidad Autonoma – 2008, 2009 (Undergraduate)

### *Teacher Associate*

Computing and data modelling, Monash University - 2013, 2014 (Undergraduate)  
 Business and Economics statistics, Monash University – 2012 (Undergraduate)  
 Quantitative Methods, Universidad Nacional de Colombia – 2003, 2004 (Undergraduate and postgraduate).

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

**Committees:** Scientific committee for the Australian Gender Economics Workshop – QUT (2020), Centre for Development Economics and Sustainability - Advisory Committee (July 2015 – June 2017)  
**Seminar coordinator:** Melbourne Institute’s Seminars, Professional Development and Social Committee (2018 – 2019 \*Chair), Annual Health Economics Workshop - University of Melbourne (Nov 2017), Applied Microeconomics/Development – Monash university (2015, 2016).  
**Refereeing:** World Development, Health Economics, International Journal of Development Education, Economic Papers, Journal of Youth Studies, The Economic Record, Economic Modelling.

## COMPUTER SKILLS

STATA, LATEX, GeoDa – ArcGIS, SPSS, E-views.

## OTHER EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

World Bank, Research Associate for WASH Poverty Diagnostic	(Sep – Dec 2016)
Parkville Global Advisory, Consultant	(Aug 2012 – Feb 2013)
University of Melbourne, Research Assistant	(Feb 2010 – Mar 2011)
Fedesarrollo, Research Assistant	(Apr 2008 – Dec 2009)
DANE (Colombian Bureau of Statistics), Survey Design Project Consultant	(Feb 2006 – Apr 2008)

## VOLUNTEER WORK

WORLD VISION AUSTRALIA, Economic Development Researcher	(Nov 2012 – Mar 2014)
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## **POLICY REPORTS AND BRIEFS**

“How can Indonesia increase female workforce participation?” w/ L. Cameron. Research Insight, Melbourne Institute: Applied Economics and Social Research, The University of Melbourne (2020).

“Women’s transitions in the labour market around Marriage and Childbearing” w/ L. Cameron. Monash/AIPEG/DFAT (2017).

“Disability in Indonesia: What can we learn from the data?” w/ L. Cameron. Monash/AIPEG/DFAT (2017).

“Women’s Economic Participation in Indonesia: A study of gender inequality in employment, entrepreneurship, and key enablers for change” w/ L. Cameron. Monash/AIPEG/DFAT (2017).

“Technical Note: Is the increase in Indonesia’s 2012 maternal mortality ratio due to methodological differences?” w/ L. Cameron and K. Cornwell. MAMPU/DFAT (2016).

“Understanding the maternal mortality in Indonesia using the 2010 Population Census and 2011 Village Census” w/ L. Cameron and K. Cornwell. MAMPU/DFAT (2016).

“Conditional Cash Transfers, Time Preferences & Educational Aspirations” w/ L. Cameron. Policy Insights, Centre for Development Economics and Sustainability, Monash University (2016).

“IMPACT Clubs: An examination of the evidence to increase employability among young adults” w/ K. Williams. World Vision Australia (2014).

“Youth Engagement through Employment and Entrepreneurship: A Review of Implemented Models and Opportunities” w/ K. Williams. World Vision Australia (2013).

“Long term impact of the Conditional Cash Transfer program - Familias en Accion - in municipalities of less than 100 thousand inhabitants in the key factors for human capital development” (Original in Spanish). w/ O. Attanasio et al. Institute for Fiscal Studies - Econometria Consultores (2012).