

# Alejandro Abarca

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## Research

*Primary fields:* Crime Economics, Development Economics, Labor Economics.

*Secondary fields:* Applied Econometrics, Causal Inference Methods, Machine Learning.

## Education

PhD, Applied Economics, Oregon State University	2019-2024 (Expected)
Certificate: Expert in Machine Learning, PROMIDAT	2022
Certificate: Expert in Data Science, PROMIDAT	2019
M.A. in Economics, University of British Columbia, Canada	2013-2014
Litentiate in Economics, Universidad de Costa Rica	2006-2013
Bachelor's in Economics, Universidad de Costa Rica	2006-2010

## Research Experience

<b>Oregon State University</b>	July 2020-Present
Research Assistant, Oregon Wine Research Institute	
Research Assistant for Professor Jennifer Alix-Garcia in the Department of Applied Economics.	
<b>Interamerican Development Bank</b>	December 2016-August 2017
Consultant	
<b>University of Costa Rica</b>	September 2014-August 2019
Researcher and Assistant Professor	
<b>Programa Estado de la Nación</b>	September 2014-September 2015
Education economics consultant	
<b>Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)</b>	September 2014-September 2015
Research Assistant	
<b>Observatorio del Desarrollo, University of Costa Rica.</b>	April 2010-July 2013
Junior Researcher	

## Teaching Experience

<b>Western Oregon University</b>	September 2022-Present
Econ 318: Money and Banking (Online)	Fall 2023, Summer 2023, Winter 2023
Econ 202: Introduction to Macroeconomics (Online)	Fall 2023
Econ 202: Introduction to Macroeconomics	Spring 2023
Econ 200: Introduction to Economics Perspectives	Winter 2023, Fall 2023
Econ 311: Intermediate Microeconomics I	Fall 2022
BA 407, EC 407: Introduction to the Sports Industry	Fall 2022
Econ 201: Introduction to Microeconomics (hybrid)	Fall 2022
<b>Oregon State University</b>	April 2021-June 2022
AEC 250: Introduction to Environmental Economics and Policy (Online)	Spring 2021
Under the supervision of Dr. Dave Lewis I mentored students for: <i>AEC 401: Course-Based Research: Applied Econometrics</i>	Spring 2022
<b>LEAD University, Costa Rica</b>	January 2019- December 2019
Econometrics III (Online)	September 2019-December 2019
Econometrics II	May 2019-August 2019
Econometrics I	January 2019-April 2019
<b>University of Costa Rica</b>	January 2015-July 2019
Economics Research Seminar II	March 2019-July 2019
Economics Research Seminar II	March 2018-July 2018
Economics Research Seminar I	August 2017-December 2017
Introduction to Economics	January 2015-April 2015
Political Economy(Graduate level)	January 2015-April 2015
<b>Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)</b>	January 2015-April 2015
Public Policy Evaluation Methods(Graduate level)	January 2015-April 2015
<b>University of British Columbia</b>	September 2013-April 2024
Teaching assistant for: <i>Wealth and Poverty of Nations, Principles of Macroeconomics, and Introduction to Strategic Thinking</i>	September 2013-April 2024

# Professional Experience

Directorate of Household Allowances of Costa Rica  
Economist and Data Scientist

March 2016-July 2019

## Publications

- Abarca, A., Ramírez, S & Sauma Chacón, M. J. (2022). *Medición del efecto de los megaoperativos policiales en Costa Rica*. Red CONOSE.
- Abarca, A., Robalino, J., Hall, L., & Pérez, E. (2018). *Ciclicidad de las transferencias sociales en Costa Rica*. Revista de Ciencias Económicas, 36(2).
- Abarca, A & Villamichel, P (2018). *¿Se debería devaluar el colón para promover el crecimiento?*. Informe del Estado de la Nación, 2018.
- Abarca, A & Ramírez, S (2016). *Estudio del Crecimiento Económico Costarricense, 1960-2014*. Observatorio del Desarrollo de la Universidad de Costa Rica, 2016.
- Robalino, J; Sandoval, C & Abarca, A (2015). *Direct And Indirect Effects Of Extreme Weather Events And Potential Estimation Biases*. Environment for Development. Discussion paper series, November 2015. EFD DP 15-29.
- Abarca, A (2015). *Brechas Educativas en Centroamérica*. Estado de la Región, 2016.
- Abarca, A & Ramírez, S (2016). *Estudio del Crecimiento Económico Costarricense, 1960-2014*. Observatorio del Desarrollo de la Universidad de Costa Rica, 2016.

## Projects and Working Papers

- Abarca, A., Ramírez, S & Sauma Chacón, M. J. (2023). *Beyond the Immediate: Cumulative Direct and Spillover Effects of Hot Spots Policing in Costa Rica. Job market paper*
- Abarca et al., (2023). *The Economic Impact of Vine Nutrients and Weather on Wine Grape Yield*. Submitted to the Journal of Wine Economics, June 2023.
- Abarca, A & Ramírez, S (2023). *A Farewell To Arms: The Long Run Developmental Effects Of Costa Rica's Army Abolishment*. Submitted to the Economic Journal, September 2023.
- Abarca, A & Ramírez, S (2023). *When Home is Not a Haven: the Labor Markets Effects of Domestic Violence*
- Ramírez, S & Abarca, A *The Labor Market Benefits of Bilingualism: The Case of Costa Rica*.
- Abarca, A & Robalino, J *Educational Effects of Costa Rica's Housing Subsidies*
- Bartlet et al., (2023). *The unintended consequences of production bans: the case of the 2018 Kenya Logging Moratorium*.

## Conferences and seminars

- Beyond the Immediate: Cumulative Direct and Spillover Effects of Hot Spots Policing in Costa Rica**  
93rd Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association (SEA), November 2023  
Session: Crime and Policing: Policy and Location  
New Orleans, Louisiana
- Do large police interventions reduce crime? Evidence from Costa Rica**  
Northwest Development Workshop, May 2023  
Eugene, Oregon
- When home is not a haven: The labor market effects of domestic violence**  
Northwest Development Workshop, May 2022  
Portland, Oregon
- When home is not a haven: The labor market effects of domestic violence**  
Pacific Conference for Development Economics (PacDev) 2022, March 2022  
Session 3E: Culture & Behavior I, Intimate Partner Violence  
Online, University of San Francisco
- A farewell to arms: The Long Run Developmental effects of Costa Rica's army abolishment**  
Third International World Conference on Public Policy, June 2017  
Panel: New Political Regimes, Old Public Policy and Governing Patterns?  
Singapore
- Strengthening skills for a knowledge-intensive economy: The Case of Costa Rica**  
Third International World Conference on Public Policy, June 2017  
Panel: Conditions of Sustainable Development Policy  
Singapore
- Does Internet Usage Reduce Corruption?**  
Third International World Conference on Public Policy, June 2017  
Panel: The Use of ICTs to Improve Governance and Accountability Outcomes  
Singapore
- Information Systems for Public Policy Evaluation in Costa Rica**  
UNICEF's Early Childhood Investment International Seminar, October 2016  
Panel: Monitoring Tools, Accountability and Transparency of early childhood's investments in Latin America and the Caribbean

Mexico City, Mexico

**Does Internet Usage Decrease Corruption?**

International Political Science Association World Congress, July 2016

Panel: Crowd sourcing and crowd monitoring

Poznan, Poland

**The political determinants of Latin American Inequality**

International Political Science Association World Congress, July 2016

Panel: Welfare States and Political Institutions panel to The Politics of Socio-Economic Outcomes in Latin America: 1980-2015

Poznan, Poland

## Awards

Oregon State University Emery Castle Scholarship 2020.

Oregon State University Robert Johnson Fellowship 2019-2020.

Oregon State University Provost's Distinguished Graduate Scholarship 2019.

International Tuition Award, University of British Columbia. Spring session 2014.

International Tuition Award, University of British Columbia. Winter session 2013.

## Programming Skills

Proficient: R, R Markdown, STATA, Latex, Python

Past experience: Eviews, SPSS

## Languages

Spanish (native), English (native), French (advanced, DELF B2 certification obtained in 2013).

## Citizenship

Costa Rican, American.

## References

Dr. Jennifer Alix-Garcia  
Professor  
Oregon State University  
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541-737-2691

Dr. Todd Pugatch  
Associate Professor  
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Oregon State University  
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