

Alejandro Abarca

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Research

Primary fields: Crime Economics, Applied Econometrics, Causal Inference Methods.

Secondary fields: Development Economics, Labor Economics, Machine Learning, Wine Economics, Sports Economics.

Education

PhD, Applied Economics, Oregon State University	2019-2024
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
Licentiate in Economics, Universidad de Costa Rica	2006-2013
Bachelor's in Economics, Universidad de Costa Rica	2006-2010

Research Experience

Texas Tech University	August 2024-Present
Assistant Professor of Practice	
Oregon State University	July 2020-July 2024
Research Assistant, Oregon Wine Research Institute	
Research Assistant for Professor Jennifer Alix-Garcia in the Department of Applied Economics.	
Interamerican Development Bank	December 2016-August 2017
Consultant	
University of Costa Rica	September 2014-August 2019
Researcher and Assistant Professor	
Programa Estado de la Nación	September 2014-September 2015
Education economics consultant	
Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)	September 2014-September 2015
Research Assistant	
Observatorio del Desarrollo, University of Costa Rica.	April 2010-July 2013
Junior Researcher	

Publications

Abarca, A., & Ramírez-Varas, S. (2025). *A Farewell to Arms: The Peace Dividend of Costa Rica's Army Abolition*. The Journal of Development Studies, 61(5), 819-843.

Bartlett, A., Alix-García, J., Abarca, A., Walker, S., Van Den Hoek, J., Murillo-Sandoval, P., & Friedrich, H. K. (2024). *The unintended consequences of production bans: the case of the 2018 Kenya logging moratorium*. Environmental Research Letters, 19(9), 094007.

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). *It adds up: the cumulative effects of police operations*.

Abarca et al., (2023). *The Economic Impact of Vine Nutrients and Weather on Wine Grape Yield*.

Abarca, A & Collado, J (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*

Teaching Experience

Texas Tech University

ECO 3323: Principles of Money, Banking, and Credit
ECO 3363: Economic Data Analysis I (Online)
ECO 3325: Special Topics: Policy Evaluation Methods
ECO 4368: Machine Learning for Economists (Online)
ECO 3310: Sports Economics
ECO 3362: Statistics for Economists (Online)

August 2024-Present

Fall 2025, Fall 2024
Fall 2025
Fall 2025
Spring 2025
Spring 2025
Fall 2024

Western Oregon University

Econ 318: Money and Banking (Online)
Econ 202: Introduction to Macroeconomics (Online)
Econ 202: Introduction to Macroeconomics
Econ 200: Introduction to Economics Perspectives
Econ 311: Intermediate Microeconomics I
BA 407, EC 407: Introduction to the Sports Industry
Econ 201: Introduction to Microeconomics (hybrid)

September 2022-May 2024

Fall 2023, Summer 2023, Winter 2023
Fall 2023
Spring 2023
Winter 2023, Fall 2023
Fall 2022
Fall 2022
Fall 2022

Oregon State University

AEC 250: Introduction to Environmental Economics and Policy (Online)
Under the supervision of Dr. Dave Lewis I mentored students for: *AEC 401: Course-Based Research: Applied Econometrics*

April 2021-June 2022

Spring 2021
Spring 2022

LEAD University, Costa Rica

Econometrics III (Online)
Econometrics II
Econometrics I

January 2019- December 2019

September 2019-December 2019
May 2019-August 2019
January 2019-April 2019

University of Costa Rica

Economics Research Seminar II
Economics Research Seminar II
Economics Research Seminar I
Introduction to Economics
Political Economy(Graduate level)

January 2015-July 2019

March 2019-July 2019
March 2018-July 2018
August 2017-December 2017
January 2015-April 2015
January 2015-April 2015

Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CA-TIE)

Public Policy Evaluation Methods(Graduate level)

January 2015-April 2015

January 2015-April 2015

University of British Columbia

Teaching assistant for: *Wealth and Poverty of Nations*, *Principles of Macroeconomics*, and *Introduction to Strategic Thinking*

September 2013-April 2024

September 2013-April 2024

Professional Experience

Directorate of Household Allowances of Costa Rica

Economist and Data Scientist

March 2016-July 2019

Conferences and seminars

It adds up: the cumulative effects of police interventions

The Bozeman Applied Economics Summer Conference, June 2025
Montana State University
Bozeman, Montana

From Incentives to Impact: NIL Policies and Their Role in College Football Performance and Transfers

Sports Economics and Management Conference, April 2025
University of Maryland, Baltimore County.
Baltimore, Maryland.

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

Texas Tech University Open Access Publication Initiative - Fall 2024/Spring 2025.
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.

Professional Service

Referee for *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports*.