### Lorenzo Lagos

Contact Department of Economics Phone: (267) 253-0386

Information Columbia University Email: lorenzo.lagos@columbia.edu

420 West 118th Street Website: econ.columbia.edu/e/lorenzo-lagos

New York, NY 10027 Citizenships: Mexico and USA

PLACEMENT Chairs: Donald Davis drd28@columbia.edu and Martín Uribe mu2166@columbia.edu

Assistant: Amy Devine aed2152@columbia.edu, (212) 856-6881

EDUCATION Ph.D. in Economics, Columbia University (expected) 2020

M.Phil. in Economics, Columbia University

M.A. in Economics, Columbia University

2016

B.A. in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE),

2011

University of Pennsylvania; summa cum laude

HONORS AND Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University 2019-2020 AWARDS CORE-Teagle Fellow, CORE USA 2018-2019

CDEP Student Research Grant, Center for Development Economics and Policy
Wueller Pre-Dissertation Award (runner-up), Columbia University

2017-2018
Lead Teaching Fellow in Economics, Columbia Center for Teaching and Learning
Wueller Teaching Award, Columbia University

2016-2017

Dean's Fellow, Columbia University

Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellow, National Academy of Sciences

2014-2018

Provost Diversity Fellow, Columbia University 2014-2015 Goldstone Prize for Best Senior Honors Thesis, University of Pennsylvania 2010-2011

Phi Beta Kappa 2010-2011

FIELDS Labor Economics, Development Economics, and Public Economics

Job Market Paper

# Labor Market Institutions and the Composition of Firm Compensation: Evidence from Brazilian Collective Bargaining [Full draft coming soon]

Abstract: This paper studies how collective bargaining—a widespread labor market institution affects firm compensation, i.e., the wages and job characteristics that are valuable to workers (henceforth amenities). Specifically, I leverage a reform that automatically extended all existing collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) in Brazil to analyze the impact of restricting employers' ability to phase out negotiated benefits on both wages and amenities. To quantify the value workers place on amenities secured by unions, I measure how textual elements in CBAs influence an establishment's ability to poach workers from other employers, conditional on wages, using data on the universe of CBAs merged with an administrative linked employer-employee dataset. The causal effects of the reform are estimated using a matched difference-in-difference design comparing establishments with extended CBAs to establishment belonging to firms that do not negotiate directly with unions. I find that automatic extensions reduce mean wages and pay premiums at affected establishments. However, strong unions secure additional amenities whose value more than offsets the decline in wages, resulting in higher overall compensation equivalent to a 1.6-3.8% wage increase. These results are consistent with the predictions of a model in which unions trade-off bargaining over wages and amenities, as well as the fact that the reform effectively only extended amenities due to preexisting wage rigidity. Finally, these changes in firm compensation lead to an increase in hiring concentrated among low-skill workers, implying an elasticity of labor supply to firms with strong unions between 1 and 2. Further evidence indicates that the resulting wage and amenity distributions are compressed, suggesting that unions reduce compensation inequality within establishments.

Working Papers

Assortative Matching or Exclusionary Hiring? The Impact of Firm Policies on Racial Wage Differences in Brazil (joint with François Gerard, Edson Severnini, and David Card) NBER Working Paper # 25176; R&R, American Economic Review

Abstract: A growing body of research shows that firms' employment and wage-setting policies contribute to wage inequality and pay disparities between groups. We measure the effects of these policies on racial pay differences in Brazil. We find that nonwhites are less likely to work at establishments that pay more to all race groups, a pattern that explains about 20% of the white-nonwhite wage gap for both genders. The pay premiums offered by different employers are also compressed for nonwhites relative to whites, contributing another 5% of the overall gap. We then ask how much of the under-representation of nonwhites at higher-paying workplaces is due to the selective skill mix at these establishments. Using a counterfactual based on the observed skill distribution at each establishment and the nonwhite shares in different skill groups in the local labor market, we conclude that assortative matching accounts for about two-thirds of the under-representation gap for both men and women. The remainder reflects an unexplained preference for white workers at higher-paying establishments. The wage losses associated with unexplained sorting and differential wage setting are largest for nonwhites with the highest levels of general skills, suggesting that the allocative costs of race-based preferences may be relatively large in Brazil.

# Violence and Credit Use: Evidence from MSEs in Mexico's Drug War [Draft approved by Comisión Nacional Bancaria y de Valores (CNBV)]

Abstract: This project studies how micro and small enterprises (MSEs) use credit when facing violence. Leveraging administrative data on working capital credit lines issued to MSEs in Mexico, I exploit geographic variation in homicide rates as well as exogenous kingpin captures to identify the causal effects of violence on credit use. I find that firms significantly increase the amounts drawn from their credit lines after experiencing violence shocks. This result could be motivated by rising short-term liquidity needs (distress story) or increasing risk of holding cash (substitution story). Rising default probabilities indicate signs of distress, although heterogeneity analyses reveal cash for credit substitution among non-revolving borrowers. I also find evidence that rising liquidity needs among distressed MSEs are likely driven by decreased economic activity rather than theft or extortion. As such, this paper highlights the important role that financial products play in terms of helping MSEs absorb violence shocks as well as providing convenient alternatives to cash holdings under insecure environments.

Work in Progress

Labor Market Effects of Employer-Provided Health Insurance in Brazil (joint with Sergio Firpo and Carolina Ribeiro)

The Minimum Wage and Racial Wage Differentials in Brazil (joint with Ellora Derenon-court, François Gerard, and Claire Montialoux)

Workers on Probation: Evidence from Job Security Legislation in Brazil

RESEA	RCH AND
Work	EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for François Gerard, Columbia University	2015 - 2016
Research Assistant for Supreet Kaur and Massimo Morelli, Columbia University	2013-2014
Intern for Shannon K. O'Neil, Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)	2013
Analyst, First Manhattan Consulting Group (FMCG)	2011-2012
Intern, Mexican Federal Competion Commission (Cofece)	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE Instructor

Labor Economics (Undergraduate)

Teaching Assistant

Econometrics I (Masters) with Steven Olley [Wueller Teaching Award]	Fall 2016
Public Economics (Undergraduate) with François Gerard	Spring 2017
Economics of Race (Undergraduate) with Brendan O'Flaherty	Fall 2019
Principles of Economics (Undergraduate) with Sunil Gulati	Spring 2019

Summer 2018

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES

Referee service: Journal of the European Economic Association

Community service: Tutor at South Bronx United (2015) and West Philly Tutoring Project (2010) Leadership: President of Mexican Student Association at the University of Pennsylvania, Head of Organizing Committee for *Convergencias* Conference (2009-2011)

#### References

Prof. Suresh Naidu (Sponsor)

Department of Economics and SIPA Columbia University (212) 854-0027 sn2430@columbia.edu

Prof. W. Bentley MacLeod

Department of Economics and SIPA Columbia University

(310) 571-5083

bentley. macleod@columbia.edu

#### Prof. François Gerard

School of Economics and Finance Queen Mary University in London +44 20 7882-6816 f.gerard@qmul.ac.uk

### Prof. Eric Verhoogen

Department of Economics and SIPA Columbia University (212) 854-4428 eric.verhoogen@columbia.edu