

PAVEL LUENGAS-SIERRA

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EDUCATION

- University of Oxford** Oxford, UK – Jan 2024
DPhil in Economics
Field: Development Economics
Chaired the Graduate Joint Committee • Awardee of CONACYT Mexican Scholarship
- University of Oxford** Oxford, UK – Jul 2010
MSc in Economics for Development (Distinction)
- Tecnológico de Monterrey (ITESM)** Monterrey, Mexico – Jun 2003
BA in Economics (Cum Laude)

EXPERIENCE

- World Bank**
- Water Global Practice – Consultant Nov 2023 – to date
- Co-authored the flagship Water for Shared Prosperity
- Water Global Practice – Consultant Dec 2022 – May 2023
- Authored technical note "The Role of Dams in Flood Prevention"
- Water Global Practice – Consultant Jan 2019 – Jun 2021
- Co-authored impact evaluation report "Impact Evaluation of Component 1 of The Sustainability Project of the Rural Water and Sanitation Sector" ([link](#))
 - Econometric and geographic analysis for the report "Colombia Turning the Tide: Water Security for Recovery and Sustainable Growth" ([link](#))
- Water Global Practice – Consultant Feb-2017 – Oct-2017
- Co-authored WASH Poverty Diagnostic for Mozambique ([link](#))
- East Asia and Pacific Region - Consultant Jun-2014 – Mar-2015
- Designed sampling strategy for the randomized control trial of the Pacific Early Age Readiness and Learning program ([PEARL](#)) in Papua New Guinea and Tonga
- Development Impact Evaluation Initiative – Consultant Feb-2012 – Aug-2012
- Econometric and research support
- Inter-american Development Bank**
- Office of Evaluation and Oversight – Consultant Oct-2007 – Jun-2009
- Co-authored working and academic papers. Supported research projects
- Sustainable Development Department – Microdata specialist Jan-2007 – Sep-2007
- Produced poverty maps for Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, and Jamaica. [Trained](#) staff from the national statistics offices of these countries
 - Implemented a technical assistance project to disseminate census and survey microdata in Honduras and Peru
- Poverty and Inequality Unit (MECOVI Program) – Research assistant Mar-2003 – Dec-2006
- Developed methodology and calculated indicators of "[EQxIS](#)." EQxIS monitored progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in Latin America, stressing unequal progress based on gender, ethnicity, income, urban-rural, and sub-national regions. It relied on 70 household surveys for 19 countries over the period of 1990-2006
 - Managed the household survey databank for the IADB

SKILLS

Advanced coding ability in a scripting language: Stata ([link](#) to published code; [link](#) to additional code)

Basic coding ability in a scripting language: R Project for Statistical Computing (see example [here](#)); Python (see example [here](#)); HTML (see example [here](#))

Other software skills: Geographic Information System (see examples [here](#)); LaTeX (strong skills); Excel (strong skills)

Experience working with large data sets: Census of formal employment ([data description](#)); census of financial records ([data description](#), [regression results](#)); national censuses (Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, and Mexico)

Teaching assistance (DPhil): i) Statistical methods (MPhil in Development Studies), ii) Stata (MSc in Economics for Development), and iii) Development Economics (CBL International Oxford Summer Institute at Oriel College)

Languages: Spanish; English

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Research in progress (thesis)

(with Michael Koelle) Effect of the Mexican War on Drugs on Violent Crime and Economic Activity ([link to the current version](#)) — *Job Market Paper*

We quantify the effect on violent crime and on economic activity of a specific policy enacted during the Mexican War on Drugs. Namely, we assess the effect of arrests or killings of high-ranking officers of criminal organizations. In a difference-in-differences approach that accounts for the staggered adoption design of the removals, we find they increased homicides (+55%), extortions (+43%), and kidnappings (+96%). The surge in violence decreased firm survival (-7%) and aggregated firm production per capita (-17%), hindering economic development as much as wars or catastrophes do.

Paying the Poor to Save: The Long-Lasting Effect of Premiahorro ([link to the current version](#)) — *Secondary paper*

Can paying people to save help them save and can saving persist once payment stops? I assess the effect of Premiahorro (2009-2015). Premiahorro combined three features: financial training, a match, and a flexible commitment savings strategy. Using a census of monthly financial records (2007-2017), I find that while it was active, Premiahorro increased savings balances by 48% and the number of deposits by 200%. After it ended the effect persisted, savings balances increasing by 66% and deposits by 38%. Premiahorro likely improved a downstream outcome. Participants kept at the bank two-thirds of what they saved and received in matches. As they were taught, they saved most of the money, increasing their resilience against shocks.

Working papers

Intrahousehold Conflict and Commitment Savings Strategies. (2018). CSAE Working Paper Series. 2018-03, Centre for the Study of African Economies, University of Oxford. ([link to the current version](#)) — Examines how intrahousehold conflict stemming from disagreements about what and when to consume leads to use of commitment savings strategies.

Luengas, Pavel and Ruprah, Inder. (2008). Fear of Crime: Does Trust and Community Participation Matter?, no 0808, Inter-American Development Bank, Office of Evaluation and Oversight (OVE), OVE Working Papers. <https://publications.iadb.org/en/fear-crime-does-trust-and-community-participation-matter>

Publications (reports)

World Bank. 2020. Colombia Turning the Tide : Water Security for Recovery and Sustainable Growth. World Bank, Washington, DC. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/34452>

World Bank. 2020. Nicaragua – Impact Evaluation of Component One of the Sustainable Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project: Summary Note (English). Washington, D.C. <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/775251587482512136-0090022020/original/NicaraguaPROSASRP150059IEENGFinal.pdf>

World Bank Group. 2018. Findings of the Mozambique Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene Poverty Diagnostic. WASH Poverty Diagnostic. World Bank, Washington, DC. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/29528>

Secretaría Técnica del Ministerio de Coordinación de Desarrollo Social (SIISE-STMCDS). 2011. Mapa de Pobreza y Desigualdad en Ecuador. Quito, Ecuador. ([link to report in Spanish](#))

Publications (academic papers)

Luengas, Pavel and Ruprah, Inder. (2011). Monetary policy and happiness: Preferences over inflation and unemployment in Latin America, *The Journal of Socio-Economics*, Volume 40, Issue 1, Pages 59-66, ISSN 1053-5357, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socec.2010.08.001>. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1053535710001113>