

**MARIA DEL PILAR LOPEZ-URIBE**

**LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Department of Economics**

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**GENDER:** F

**CITIZENSHIP:** Colombian

**PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES:**

**Visiting Scholar**, Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) and School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), Columbia University, New York, USA, Sept-Nov 2015.

**M.Res in Economics** (*Thesis with distinction*), London School of Economics, London, UK, 2013.

**M.Sc in History** (*Thesis with distinction*), Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia, 2009.

**M.Sc in Economics**, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia, 2008.

**B.A in Economics** (*with distinction*), Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia, 2006.

**B.A in History** (*with distinction*), Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia, 2006.

**DOCTORAL STUDIES:**

London School of Economics

DATES: 2013 - present

THESIS TITLE: "Essays on the Political Economy of Development"

EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE: May 2018

THESIS ADVISOR AND REFERENCES:

Timothy Besley (Advisor)  
Department of Economics  
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### **DESIRED TEACHING AND RESEARCH:**

Primary Fields: Development Economics, Economic History, Political Economy.

Secondary Fields: Applied Microeconomics.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

2017-2018 *Fellow* – Economic History Department, London School of Economics, London, UK.

- Historical Analysis of Economic change (Master Students).
- The development and integration of the world economy in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (Master Students).
- Quantitative topics in Economic History-Cross Section and Panel data (Master Students).

2016-2017 *Lecturer* – Department of Economics, Queen Mary University, London, UK.

- Macroeconomic Principles.

2015-2017 *Graduated Teaching Fellow-Course Manager* – Department of Economics, London School of Economics, London, UK.

- Macroeconomic Principles (Master Students).

2013-2015 *Teacher Assistant* – Department of Economics, London School of Economics, London, UK.

- Macroeconomic Principles.
- Economics in Public Policy.
- Latin America Economic History and the International Economy.
- Principles of Macroeconomics (Summer School).

2008-2011 *Lecturer* – Department of Economics, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia:

- Principles of Macroeconomics (Undergraduate and postgraduate).
- Real Business Cycles –Macroeconomics II.
- Economic Growth- Macroeconomics III.
- Economics Section - Law and Democracy Course.

### **RELEVANT POSITIONS HELD:**

2015-present	<i>Research Assistant</i> , Prof. Stephen Machin, Dark Net Project, Centre for Economic Performance (CEP), London School of Economics.
2015-2017	<i>Research Associate</i> , Centre for Development Economics (CEDE), Universidad de los Andes.
2016-2017	<i>Research Officer</i> , Institute of Developing Studies (IDS).
May 2016	<i>Research Assistant</i> , National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR).
2014-2015	<i>Research Assistant</i> , Grantham Research Institute, London School of Economics.
2013	<i>Consultant</i> , USAID (Colombia) and Department of Economics, Universidad de los Andes.
2013-2014	<i>Research Assistant</i> , Prof. Timothy Besley, Department of Economics, London School of Economics.

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2008-2011      *Research Economist – Young Professionals Programme*, Department of Economics, Universidad de los Andes.  
2004-2008      *Junior Researcher*, Department of Economics, Universidad de los Andes.

### **LANGUAGES**

Spanish (native), English (fluent)

### **HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS:**

2017              LSE-RFII Grant, 2017.  
2017              BIARI Alumni- Brown University – Seed Grant, 2017.  
2015-2017      Teaching Fellowship, Economics Department, LSE, 2015-2017.  
2015              PhD Partnership funding, LSE-Columbia University, 2015.  
2015-2017      COLCIENCIAS PhD Scholarship, 2015-2017.  
2014              PhD Scholarship, Ronald Coase Institute Workshop, 2014.  
2011-2013      COLFUTURO PhD Scholarship, 2011-2013.  
2011-2013      ESRC PhD Scholarship, 2011-2013.  
2006              Scholarship, Summer School, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, 2006.

### **COMPLETED PAPERS:**

#### ***Job Market Paper:***

“Buying off the Revolution: Evidence from the Colombian National Peasant Movement, 1957-1985”

This paper studies the relationship between a democratic reform and redistribution during periods of revolutionary threats. Far from causing an increase in broad redistribution (e.g. social spending), I show that the state organization of a social movement that extends the political rights of the threatening group can be used to identify rebel leaders and provide private goods to them, in return for preventing social unrest and demobilizing their supporters. I study the context of the organization by the state of the most important social movement in Colombian history -the National Peasant Movement (ANUC)- during the decades of a threat of Communist revolution (1957-1985), when the government gave ANUC direct political participation at the local level in the executive branch and economic support. Using three newly digitized data sets of Colombian municipalities, I find that this reform did not lead to higher broad redistribution towards the peasantry but it led to an increase in targeted redistribution in terms of public jobs and lands. In particular, by matching the names of the peasant leaders to the beneficiaries of the land reform, evidence suggests that peasant leaders disproportionately benefited from land reform, especially in municipalities where the communist threat was higher. Finally, I find suggestive evidence that buying off the rebel leaders was an effective counter-revolutionary strategy as it led to less revolutionary activities after the support to ANUC was terminated (1972-1985).

#### ***Other Papers:***

“On the agrarian origins of civil conflict in Colombia, 1914-1985” with Fabio Sanchez

We investigate the impact of land dispossessions of peasants on the origin of the civil conflict in Colombia. Using a matching-pair instrumental variable approach, we show that the historical dispossession of peasants' lands by landlords that led to the rise of peasant grievances is associated with the presence of the rural guerrilla movement - The Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC)- during the first stage of the Colombian civil conflict (1974-1985). This study exploits variation in floods to identify how peasants' land dispossessions during the export boom (1914-1946) determine the rise of rural guerrilla movements and the consolidation of their rebel activities. Using a novel municipal-level dataset on natural disasters and land dispossession, the study documents that municipalities experiencing floods during the years 1914-1946 were substantially more likely to have land dispossessions than municipalities where floods was not severe. Floods reduced temporarily the conditions of the land and its value, facilitating the dispossession of the peasants of their lands by large landowners. We propose two mechanisms through which previous land dispossessions facilitated the emergence of rebel armed groups. On the one hand, exposure to previous events of violence gave military training and access to weapons and military experience to the

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rural population that likely emboldened the formation of rebel groups. On the other hand, the ideological cohesion stemming from radical liberals and communists exacerbated the grievances and helped the emergence of rebel armed groups.

### **“Roads or Schools? Political Budget Cycles with different types of voters, 1830-2000”**

Using a new Colombian data set (1830-2000), I analyze how changes in the electoral legislation with regard to the characteristics of voters (in terms of education and income levels) have affected fiscal policy in election years. In line with economic theory, I show that after the male universal suffrage law was reformed in 1936 the composition of the expenditure shifted towards social spending (like education, health, and welfare benefits) but there was a decrease in spending on infrastructure and investment projects (like roads). Consistent with the literature, I also find: 1. The timing and the size of the political budget cycles changed after 1936 and 2. After 1936 there was a shift in the funding mechanisms from indirect tax revenues to more debt.

### **PUBLICATIONS:**

"Land Conflicts, Property Rights and the Rise of the Export Economy in Colombia, 1850–1925" with Fabio Sánchez and Antonella Fazio, *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 70, N° 2, June, 2010.

"Geography, Institutions and Development: A Review of the long-run impacts of climate change", with David Castells and Tom McDermott, *Climate and Development*, Issue 5, Vol. 8, 2016.

"Coping with climate risk: A review of adaptation to climate change through a development economic lens", with David Castells-Quintana and Thomas McDermott, *World Development*, forthcoming.

### **RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:**

"Increasing access to Agricultural Credit: The heterogeneous effects of collective action" with Allison Benson and Jean Paul Faguet.

Collective action (CA) in the rural sector is crucial for promoting development as it allows farmers to overcome market and state failures. Does CA in the form of Rural Producer Organizations increase access to agricultural credit at the local level and are the effects heterogeneous according to farmer size and source of credit? To address these questions, we study the case of Colombia and exploit time and space variation in collective action based on panel data for over 15.000 municipality-year observations. To account for endogeneity, we employ a Matched Differences in Differences approach exploiting institutional shocks that promoted and eased RPO creation. We complement the study with Small-N qualitative analysis to obtain in-depth understanding of the causal relations and mechanisms taking place, in particular, of the type of credit constraints that CA loosens. Our results show that collective action in the form of Rural Producer Organizations increases the total value and number of credit granted at the local level, contributing to local financial development, not just affecting the composition of credit between members and non-members. The effects of CA are heterogeneous according to the type of farmer towards which credit is directed: it increases the number of credits granted to big and small producers, but it only increases the total value of credits granted to big ones. The increases in credit towards small producers is explained by increases in public credit, whereas for big farmers the increase acts through private credit, which decreases for medium farmers. These results can be explained by structural segmentation of the credit market which are replicated by the effect of CA.

"Repertoires of Contention and Public Goods Provision: Evidence from the Colombian National Peasant Movement".

After the alliance between the government and the Colombian National peasant movement ended in 1972, the movement divided. One part of the movement decided to make direct opposition to the government and used violent/illegal means, land invasions, to attract its attention for a better public good provision. Other part of the movement also joined the opposition group but decided to demand a better public good provision through legal means. This group decided to join forces and built up political parties that compete in local elections with the incumbents. In this paper, I study which of these repertoire of contention was more effective at demanding a better provision of public goods. I collected information about municipal land invasions, local electoral results, revenues and expenditure between 1971 and 1978.

“Popular Protests, Political Competition and Political Budget Cycles”.

I test the hypothesis that when governments face popular protest with a particular goal they are more likely to change the composition of their budget for re-election purposes. I use a data set over the period 1975-2010 of 1000 municipalities in Colombia. I collected information about different components of revenues and expenditure and about popular protests and their purposes and scope. I then use this information to study how the effect of popular protests in pre-election years on fiscal policy depends on different levels of political competition at municipal level.

“Witchcraft beliefs and Trust in Public Authority: The case of Lugbara Population” with Eduardo Mello and Elizabeth Storer.

“The Effects of the Opening of the Panama Canal on long-run development” with Fabio Sanchez.

“The effect of Ebola on Political Incentives: Evidence from Sierra Leone”, with Musa Kpaka.

“Creating Incentives for Collective Action: Evidence from Mozambique” with Eduardo Mello.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

- 2018 American Economic Association, Philadelphia (scheduled).
- 2017 Boston University, Boston (scheduled); Advances in Political Economy and Public Economics Workshop, Max Planck Institute, Munich; Latin American Economic Association (LACEA), Buenos Aires; Workshop on Political Economy, Unibz, Bruneck; Universidad de los Andes, Bogota; Fifth Annual Formal Theory and Comparative Politics, Emory University, Atlanta; World Congress of Cliometrics, Cliometric Society, Strasbourg; International Economic Association Meeting, Mexico City; Ceslfo- Venice Summer Institute, Ceslfo, Venice; LSE-Stanford Conference on Long Range Development in Latin America, Palo Alto; Royal Economic Society, PhD Meeting, London.
- 2016 Latin American Economic Association (LACEA), Medellin; Institute for New Economic Thinking, YSI, Budapest; Advanced Graduate Workshop on Poverty, Development and Globalization, IPD and Azim Premji University, Bangalore; Workshop on Governance and Development, BIARI, Brown University, Providence.
- 2015: Workshop on Political Economy, European Journal of Political Economy (ELSEVIER), Pontresina; Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics (SIOE), Harvard University, Boston; Land and Poverty Conference, World Bank, Washington DC.
- 2014 Workshop on Institutional Analysis, Ronald Coase Institute, Manila.
- 2010 II Latin-American Congress of Economic History, Mexico City.
- 2009 Latin American Economic Association (LACEA), Buenos Aires; World Congress of Economic History, Utrecht; Latin American Backwardness Revisited. New Empirical Contributions in Economic History, Barcelona.
- 2008 Symposium of Economics, Theory and application, ATINER, Athens.
- 2007 I Latin-American Congress of Economic History, Universidad de la República, Montevideo.