

NATHALIE PICARELLI

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & POLITICAL SCIENCE
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EDUCATION

2013-Present	Ph.D. candidate, Urban Economics & Economic Geography Thesis title: "Essays in Urban and Development Economics" Supervisors: Prof. Henry Overman, Prof. Olmo Silva	London School of Economics
2009-2011	MPA International Finance & Economic Policy	Columbia University
2007-2009	MRes. International Economics	Sciences Po Paris
2004-2007	B.A. Economics and Political Science	Sciences Po Paris

Visiting Periods:

2015	Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU), School of Economics, University of Cape Town, South Africa (overseas fieldwork and visiting student for 6 months).
2006-2007	Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Dept. of Economics (undergraduate, 1-year exchange program).

HONORS, AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS

2016	IGC Research Grants: Project on Cholera outbreaks and flooding risks in Dar es Salaam & Project on commuting choices and access to jobs in the Greater Accra Region. INFER Policy Research Award 2016.
2015	Economic & Social Research Council, LSE DTC PhD Exchange Bursaries.
2013-2016	Economic & Social Research Council, Doctoral Training Studentship
2012	Youth Innovation Fund, The World Bank (awarded US\$12,000 to develop a local community project in Uruguay in partnership with public health institutions).
2007-2009	French Government Excellence "Major" Grant, awarded for MRes.
2006-2007	Exchange program, 1 year at Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Department of Economics.
2004-2007	French Government Excellence Grant – awarded to talented overseas student for B.A.

FIELD OF RESEARCH

Primary Fields: Urban and Development Economics

Secondary Fields: Labor Economics

PROFESSIONAL & RELEVANT RESEARCH POSITIONS

2016	J-PAL (MIT), Research Assistant for the project " Transport Subsidies and Job Matchmaking in South Africa ", led by Prof. Sandra Sequeira and Prof. Abhijit Banerjee (ongoing since May 2016).
2015	Centre for Economic Performance (Spatial Economics Research Centre), LSE – Research Assistant for Prof. Vernon Henderson. Project: Urbanization in Developing Countries , research on urban land tenure in sub-Saharan Africa (July-Nov 2015).
2011-2013	The World Bank. Research Analyst, Economic Policy Unit – Latin America & the Caribbean (2 years Washington, DC). Supported macroeconomic research and budget-support lending in the OECS countries, Paraguay and Nicaragua, focusing on debt sustainability, growth and fiscal issues.
2010-2011	Roubini Global Economics. Research Assistant, Macroeconomics Division: Latin America/Emerging Markets (10 months, New York).
2010	The Earth Institute, Columbia University – Millennium Villages Project. Part-time Research Assistant (6 months, New York).

WORKING PAPERS & PUBLICATIONS

“Who Really Benefits from Export Processing Zones? Evidence from Nicaraguan Municipalities”

Labour Economics, *forthcoming*. doi:10.1016/j.labeco.2016.05.016

Export processing zones are popular trade policies in developing countries, but there is limited empirical evidence on their local effects. This paper examines the impact of their establishment on the levels of per capita expenditure across Nicaraguan municipalities for the period 1993 to 2009. Using the time and cross-section variation of park openings in a difference-in-differences framework, I find that on average consumption levels increased by 10-12% in treated municipalities. Yet, average effects mask significant disparities across the expenditure distribution. The results suggest that the policy benefited the upper-tail the most: expenditure levels increased by up to 25% at the 90th percentile. At the opposite of the distribution, only the bottom decile registered a small positive effect of close to 10% across the period.

“There is No Free House. Low-Cost Housing & Labour Supply in South Africa’s Metro Areas” (working paper) [slides]

INFER Policy Research Award 2016.

Using 3 waves of panel micro data collected between 2008 and 2012, this paper evaluates the effect of a large public housing program in South Africa on labour market participation, unemployment and basic welfare indicators of the program’s recipients across the country’s six main metropolitan areas. I find that between one to three years following housing allocation, the labour supply of recipient households decreases by between half to one standard deviation, driven by both a decline in the intensive and extensive margins of female members.

Residential segregation, Ghettos and Labour Market Entry for the Youth. Evidence from Cape Town (in progress)

CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD BANK REPORTS:

Biding Growth Constraints in Small Island Economies: Evidence Focusing on the OECS, Background Paper for the OECS Secretariat’s Growth and Development Strategy. (With R. Read and H. Armstrong) World Bank, 2012. 82pp. [unpublished]

Paraguay: Agriculture commodity prices and tax revenue collection, Background paper for Public Expenditure Review of Paraguay (with E. Favaro, F. Koehler-Geib, A. Indaco) World Bank, 2013. 46pp. [paper]

LANGUAGES, SOFTWARE & OTHER SKILLS

Languages: Spanish: native • French: native • English: fluent • Portuguese: fluent (C2 CEFR certificate) • Italian: spoken fluent • Russian: advanced beginner • German: basic knowledge.

Software: Microsoft Office, Stata, E-Views, ArcGIS, Bloomberg, Latex.

Short Courses & Trainings: MIT-JPAL101x Evaluating Social Programs (May 2015) • ArcGIS (LSE, 2014)

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

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| 2016 | IGC Cities 2 nd Annual Conference • 19 th IZA Summer School in Labor Economics • 19 th INFER Annual Conference • IV Workshop in Urban Economics (IEB). |
| 2015 | LSE Economic Geography Seminar • 10 th Meeting of the Urban Economics Association • RIDGE 2015 December Forum, Workshop on Trade and Firm Dynamics. |
| 2014 | LSE Economic Geography Seminar • SOLE-EALE 4th World Conference. |

PARTICIPATION IN SPECIAL WORKSHOPS

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| 2015-2016 | Prof. Thomas Piketty Post-Graduate Masterclass (LSE, International Inequality Institute) |
| Nov. 2015 | Columbia University, Department of Economics and the Urban Economics Association - PhD Conference: Frontier of Urban Economics |

Last Updated: June 2016