David Escamilla-Guerrero

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London School of Economics and Political Science

Placement Director: Dr. Neil Cummins
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Education

Pre-Doctoral Studies
University of Essex, 2015
M.Sc. Economics, *with Distinction*

Charles III University of Madrid, 2011
M.Sc. Development Economics, *with Distinction*

B.A. in Economics, *with Highest Honors*
National Autonomous University of Mexico - UNAM, 2010

Doctoral Studies
London School of Economics and Political Science, 2015 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economic History
Thesis: "Essays on Migration Patterns and Long-Run Development in Mexico"
Expected Completion Date: May 2019

References

Professor Eric Schneider (Primary Supervisor)
Department of Economic History
London School of Economics
Phone: +44 (0)207 852 3680
E.B.Schneider@lse.ac.uk

Professor Joan Rosés (Secondary Supervisor)
Department of Economic History
London School of Economics
Phone: +44 (0)207 955 6678
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Professor Chris Minns (Advisor)
Department of Economic History
London School of Economics
Phone: +44(0)207 955 7812
C.Minns@lse.ac.uk

Teaching and Research Fields

Primary Fields: Development Economics, Economic History

Secondary Fields: Labor Economics, Microeconometrics, Policy Evaluation

Teaching Experience

Graduate Teaching Assistant
Economic History Department, London School of Economics and Political Science

Course EH101: The Internationalization of Economic Growth, 1870 to the present day   **2017-18**
      to Dr. Eric Schneider and Dr. Chris Minns

Course EH225: Latin America and the International Economy   **2018-19**
      to Dr. Peter Sims

Research Experience and Employment

Short Term Consultant   **05/2017 – 10/2017**
Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice - Mexico, The World Bank

Research Assistant to Professor Joan Rosés   **Spring 2016**
Economic History Department, London School of Economics

Project Assistant to Dr. Susanna Khavul   **Summer 2015**
Center for Economic Performance, London School of Economics

Research Assistant   **Fall 2014**
Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex.

Research Coordinator   **06/2013 – 08/2014**
Department of Economic Research, National Housing Commission, Mexico.

Head of Department   **01/2012 - 06/2013**
Department of Poverty Measurement, National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL), Mexico.

Research Associate   **03/2012 - 10/2012**
Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM). Part-time.

Scholarships, Fellowships and Academic Honors

- **2018 PhD Research Fellow.** World Institute for Development Economics Research – United Nations.
- **2018 Summer Research Fellow.** Economic Research Directorate – Bank of Mexico.
- **London School of Economics PhD Scholarship.** Scholarship for Doctoral Studies (2018 – 2019). £6,500 annual grant.
- **International Economic History Association**. Best Poster Prize – 20th Century Category (World Economic History Congress 2018 - MIT).
- **Economic History Society.** New Researcher Poster Prize (2018 Annual Conference).
- **Economic History Society.** Research Fund for Graduate Students (2017). £500 annual grant.
- **Economic History Association.** Pre-Dissertation Exploratory Grant (2017). $2,500 annual grant.
- **The Radwan Travel and Discovery Fund**. The London School of Economics, Economic History Department (2016). £400 annual grant.
- **Ministry of Education Scholarship - Mexico.** Scholarship for Doctoral Studies (2015 – 2016). £2,800 annual grant.
- **CONACYT/LSE Graduate Scholarship**. Scholarship for Doctoral Studies at The London School of Economics and Political Science (2015 – 2018). Fee waiver + £12,924 annual grant.
- **Eastern Academic Research Consortium Scholarship** (declined). Scholarship for Doctoral Studies at University of Essex, UK (2015). Fee waiver + £13,863 annual grant.

- **Erasmus Mundus European Scholarship** (declined). Scholarship for Master Studies at Lund University, Sweden (2011). Fee waiver + €6,000 annual grant.
- **CONACYT/MEXICO CITY Graduate Scholarship.** Scholarship for Master Studies at Charles III University of Madrid (2010-2011).
- **UNAM School of Economics Alumni Association Scholarship**. Academic Excellence Scholarship for Bachelor studies at National Autonomous University of Mexico (2005-2010).

Publications

Ávila-Parra, C. and Escamilla-Guerrero, D. (2017). "*What Are the Effects of Expanding a Social Pension Program on Extreme Poverty and Labor Supply? Evidence from Mexico's Pension Program for the Elderly*", in Policy Research Working Paper Series, No. 8229, The World Bank, pp. 1-51.

Escamilla-Guerrero, D. (2016). "*Getting out of poverty for the first time. Evidence from the UK*", in The Public Sphere Journal, 2016 Issue, pp. 83-104.

Escamilla-Guerrero, D. et al. (2013). "*Rural poverty in Mexico. Policy perspectives*", in Agriculture and the rural sector in Mexico, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), pp. 81-107. (Available in Spanish only)

Research Papers

"Initial Determinants of Mexican Mass Migration" – Job Market Paper

Exploiting an original dataset based on individual border crossings from 1906 to 1908, this paper rewrites, to some extent, our knowledge about the initial patterns of the Mexican-American migration flow. For the first time, I present the spatial distribution of the flow at a municipal-county level considering the immigrant's birth place and last residence. Additionally, I use ordinary least squares to provide a quantitative assessment of the initial push and pull factors of the flow: 1) migration costs; 2) market potentials; 3) wage differentials; 4) availability of migrant networks; 5) access to railways; 6) presence of the enganche; and 7) droughts. The results suggest that the market potentials and the Mexican immigrant networks in the US were the main pull factors rather than US-Mexico wage differentials. Finally, I disentangle the effect of railways implementing an instrumental variable strategy consisting on straight lines connecting historically important cities. These lines abstract for communication corridors present since colonial times. The findings suggest that despite its importance for the Mexican economy, the access to railways induced emigration, but only in the Bajio region. Therefore, this transportation technology had a limited effect on the Mexican-US migration flow before 1910.

"Self-selection of Mexican emigrants in the presence of random shocks: Evidence from the Panic of 1907" with Moramay López-Alonso (Rice University)

Understanding the evolution of self-selection patterns of the Mexican emigrants is particularly relevant considering the current position of the US Federal Government towards a more restrictive immigration policy. This has been manifested in declarations of the US President arguing that "When Mexico sends its people, they are not sending their best". We use heights (as a proxy to human capital) of immigrants, soldiers and passport holders to estimate the self-selection pattern of Mexican emigrants before 1910. In addition, we exploit the Panic of 1907, the most severe financial crisis in the US before the Great Depression, to understand how self-selection responds to idiosyncratic demand shocks. Since the Panic of 1907 was a phenomenon confined to the US, which severely affected industries where Mexican immigrants were mostly employed; and as the crisis occurred during a period when Mexicans could emigrate to the US without restrictions, our results capture how the human capital distribution of migrants adapts in a free mobility setting. The preliminary findings show a strong evidence that immigrants might have belong to the upper tail of the height distribution of the Mexican working class, and thus Mexican immigrants were positively self-selected relative to the average laborer. The Panic of 1907 changed consistently the self-selection pattern during and after the crisis.

LANGUAGES

- **Spanish:** Native.
- **English:** Fluent.
- **French:** Fluent.
- **Portuguese:** Fluent.