Laura Contreras-Portela

Website: lauradcontreras.github.io Email: laura.contreras-portela@univ-amu.fr GitHub: github.com/lauradcontreras

Research Interests

Urban economics, Labor Economics, Development Economics, International Trade.

EDUCATION

Aix-Marseille School of Economics

Marseille, France

PhD Candidate in Economics

2022-2025

Supervisor(s): Federico Trionfetti & Lorenzo Rotunno

Thesis: "The Consequences of Place-Based Policies: Theory and Empirical evidence".

Aix-Marseille School of Economics

Marseille, France

M1 in Economics (with honors)

2020-2022

M2 in Empirical and Theoretical Economics

Thesis: "The economic geography effect of the Free Economic Zones".

Universidad Externado de Colombia

Bogotá, Colombia

B.A in Economics

2017-2021

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

• The Dual Faces of Development: Assessing the Unintended Effects of Industrial Place-Based Policies in Colombia

Abstract: This paper studies the local economic impact of the Free Economic Zones (FEZs) program established in Colombia between 2005-2018. Based on a novel data set that combines georeferenced data on FEZs, municipalities, and household characteristics, I measure the spatial effects of the creation of these zones on labor market outcomes, focusing on informality. Results show that the FEZs establishment significantly increases local employment by increasing informality, with positive spillovers to the nearby regions, decreasing with distance. To get the aggregate effects of such a policy, I develop a spatial structural model with informality, trade, and labor mobility, providing two channels: (i) the formalization channel that results in a decrease in the proportion of informal firms, and (ii) the entry channel resulting in an increase in firm entry, mainly driven by informal firms.

- Caring for the unpaid caregivers with Natalia Labrador
- The unintended consequences of economic stratification: Evidence from Colombia with Ricardo Guzman

Scholarships and Awards

•	Doctoral Fellowship, Aix-Marseille School of Economics, Aix-Marseille Université	2022-2025
•	AMSE Grant, Academic Excellence, Aix-Marseille School of Economics, Aix-Marseille Université Scholarship for academic excellence in M1.	2021-2022
•	Scholarship of Academic Excellence for Undergraduate Studies, ETB, Bogotá Best result in Saber 11 (High school exit examination).	2017-2021

TEACHING

•	Teaching Assistant at Aix-Marseille University	Spring 2023
	Industrial Organisation & Macroeconomics II in French, Economics & Managment Faculty	
•	Teaching Assistant at Universidad Externado de Colombia	Jan - Jul, 2020

Linear Algebra in Spanish, Economics Faculty

• **Teaching Assistant** at Universidad Externado de Colombia *Optimization in Spanish, Economics Faculty* Jan - Dec, 2019

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

• SMILE reading group at AMSE Active member

2022 - Present

EXPERIENCE

• R.A on "The Formation and Evolution of Urban System"

Summer 2021

Supervisor: Federico Trionfetti

 ${\bf Data\ analysis\ of\ GIS\ and\ archaeological\ data.\ Construction\ of\ geographical\ concentration\ indices.}$

Conferences

• PSE Summer School on International Trade

Summer 2023

• IEA World Congress

Dec, 2023

Medellin, Colombia

• QMUL workshop

May, 2024

• LAGV*

Summer 2024

• French-Japanese Conference*

Summer 2024

Skills Languages

- **Programming:** R, Stata, Python, QGIS, Matlab, ArcGis.
- Software and Tools: MS Office, LATEX, Power BI.
- Spanish (Native), English (Fluent), French (Fluent).

REFERENCES

Federico Trionfetti

Aix-Marseille School of Economics federico.trionfetti@univ-amu.fr

Juan C. Sosa

National University of Colombia jcsosam@unal.edu.co

Lorenzo Rotunno

International Monetary Fund lrotunno@imf.org

^{*}Scheduled