

RESEARCH INTERESTS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primary | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secondary |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Labor Economics• Development Economics | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• International Trade• Urban Economics |

EDUCATION

- PhD Candidate in Economics, Aix Marseille School of Economics 2022 - Expected 2026
Supervisors: Federico Trionfetti & Lorenzo Rotunno
- Visiting PhD Fellowship, UNU-wider Fall 2025
Mentor: Anna Sazova & Rodrigo Oliveira
- Visiting Ph.D. Student in the Economics Department at University College London Spring 2025
Sponsor: Gabriel Ulyssea
- Visiting scholar at the Institute for Fiscal Studies Spring 2025
Sponsor: Center for Tax Analysis in Developing Countries (TaxDev) & Francois Gerard
- M.Sc. in Economics, Aix-Marseille School of Economics 2020-2022
With honors
- B.Sc. in Economics, Universidad Externado de Colombia 2017–2021

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- **Place-Based Industrial Policies and Informality**

Abstract: Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are a cornerstone of place-based industrial policy in developing economies, yet their success depends on how local labor markets adjust to new investment opportunities. Using newly assembled georeferenced data linking municipalities, firms, households, and zones, this paper exploits the staggered rollout of SEZs in Colombia between 2005 and 2018 in a difference-in-differences framework to assess their impact on local labor markets and firm dynamics. I find that, at the municipality level, SEZs increase informality without affecting total employment, indicating that the policy reallocates rather than expands local labor demand. This reallocation arises as high-skill-intensive firms entering SEZs compete for scarce skilled labor: wage pressures intensify, high-skill workers experience wage gains, and small, less-productive formal firms that cannot match rising labor costs exit the market. The resulting shift in labor demand reallocates high-skilled workers toward high-productivity firms, while displaced low-skill workers are absorbed into informal occupations. The findings reveal a distortion inherent to place-based industrial incentives: SEZs concentrate benefits among a narrow “club” of high-productivity firms, reshaping the composition of local economies and highlighting the limits of policies that rely on selective incentives.

- **Caring For the Unpaid Caregivers: Evidence from Bogotá** with *Natalia Labrador (AMSE)*

Abstract: This paper examines the local socio-economic impact of Bogotá’s spatially targeted care policy, Manzanas del Cuidado, implemented between 2020 and 2024. Using a novel dataset that integrates

geo-referenced data on the Manzanas, neighborhood-level service provision metrics, and detailed household surveys capturing women’s labor market outcomes and unpaid care work—alongside police and hospital reports on intimate partner violence (IPV)—we analyze the spatial effects of these interventions on gender dynamics and local labor markets. We hypothesize that these Manzanas significantly enhance women’s labor market participation and earnings by alleviating unpaid care burdens while exerting heterogeneous effects on IPV through shifts in intra-household dynamics. We aim to show both theoretically and empirically that enhanced care infrastructure not only boosts women’s productivity and bargaining power by reducing time constraints but also alters intra-household power relations in ways that reshape IPV incidence. Furthermore, we plan to explore the potential spillover effects of these care interventions on adjacent communities.

- **Artificial Intelligence and Trade** with *Despoina Balouktsi (JRC)* and *Priyam Verma (Ashoka University)*

Abstract: We aim to investigate the impact of trade, specifically in the information communications technology (ICT) industry, on artificial intelligence (AI) innovation and overall economic growth. Our investigation encompasses both the macro-level effects and regional dynamics. To achieve this objective, we develop a spatial growth model that examines how trade influences the spatial distribution of AI innovation. In our framework, regions with higher levels of trade openness, especially through export activities, are better able to benefit from advances in ICT technology. These advancements, in turn, serve as catalysts for AI innovation, thus fostering overall economic growth. We then apply this model to the data to investigate how a reduction in trade costs impacts innovation across different regions in India.

- **Weather Shocks and ITC adoption: Meta-analysis** with *Dominik Biesalski (ILO)* and coauthors
- **SEZs and Domestic Violence: Evidence from Africa** with *Till Meissner (LSE)*

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Short-Term Consultant, The International Labour Organization May 2025 - August 2025
1. MSME employment and climate risk exposure
- R.A on “The Formation and Evolution of Urban System” Summer 2021
Supervisor: Federico Trionfetti
Data analysis of GIS and archaeological data. Construction of geographical concentration indices.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Visiting PhD Fellowship, UNU-WIDER Fall 2025
- Doctoral Fellowship, Aix-Marseille School of Economics, Aix-Marseille Université 2022–2025
- Master AMSE Grant, Academic Excellence, Aix-Marseille School of Economics, Aix-Marseille Université 2021–2022
- Scholarship of Academic Excellence for Undergraduate Studies, ETB, Bogotá 2017–2021
Best result in Saber 11 (High school exit examination).

TEACHING

- **Teaching Assistant** at Aix-Marseille University 2023 - 2024
Industrial Organisation & Macroeconomics II in French, Economics & Management 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

- Organization, Female Afterwork, AMSE 2023 - 2025
- SMILE reading group at AMSE 2022 - 2024

CONFERENCES

- 2023: AMSE PhD seminar, PSE Summer School on International Trade, IEA World Congress
- 2024: AMSE PhD seminar, QMUL workshop, Urban Economic Association Summer School, LAGV, Konstanz Brown Bag Seminar, French-Japanese Conference, Junior Workshop ENS de Lyon
- 2025: AMSE PhD seminar, HEC Laussane Brown Bag Seminar, IFS-UCL-LSE/STICERD Development Seminar, LSE WECW-EGSE, UCL PhD Seminar, UNU-WIDER WIP Seminar, JDD-Job Market AFEDDEV, Helsinki Economics Group Development Seminar, LACEA 2025*,
- 2026: CSAE 2026*

**Scheduled*

SKILLS

- **Programming:** R, Stata, Python, QGIS, Matlab, ArcGis.
- **Software and Tools:** MS Office, L^AT_EX, Power BI.

LANGUAGES

- Spanish (Native), English (Fluent), French (Fluent)

REFERENCES

- **Lorenzo Rotunno**
International Monetary Fund
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- **Gabriel Ulyssea**
University College London
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- **Priyam Verma**
Ashoka University
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- **Rodrigo Oliveira**
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