

JUAN ESTEBAN SAAVEDRA
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Personal

Dual U.S. and Colombian citizen; married, one child.

Education

- 2004-2009 Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Ph.D. in Public Policy
Dissertation Title: *The Role of Resources and Incentives in Education Production*
Committee: Lawrence Katz, Caroline Hoxby, Alberto Abadie, Richard Murnane
Primary Domains: Labor Economics, Development Economics, Economics of Education
- 2001-2003 Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Master of Public Administration in International Development
- 1997-1999 Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia
MA in Economics
- 1992-1997 Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia
BA in Economics

Current Appointments and Affiliations

- 2021-2022 Visiting Lecturer in Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School
- 2017- Invited Researcher, Jameel Poverty Action Lab
- 2016- Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research
- 2014- Research Affiliate, Innovations for Poverty Action
- 2013- Research Economist, Dornsife Center for Economic and Social Research, University of Southern California
- 2011- Adjunct Professor of Public Policy, Escuela de Gobierno Alberto Lleras Camargo, Universidad de Los Andes

Publications (Google Scholar Citations = 1,289, h-index = 19)

Peer Reviewed Publications

Long-Term Educational Consequences of Vocational Training in Colombia: Impacts on Young Trainees and Their Relatives (with Adriana Kugler, Maurice Kugler and Luis Herrera), *Journal of Human Resources*, February 2020 [[LINK](#)] [previously circulated as Long-Term Direct and Spillover Effects of Job Training, [LINK](#) to NBER working paper #21607].

Remedial Inquiry-Based Science Education: Experimental Evidence from Peru (with Emma Naslund-Hadley and Mariana Alfonso), *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 41(4): 483-509, December 2019 [[LINK](#)]. [[LINK](#) to NBER working paper #23050; [LINK](#) to IPA Evidence Review on Improving Learning Outcomes].

Publications (cont.)

Peer Reviewed Publications (cont.)

Medium- and Long-Term Educational Consequences of Alternative Conditional Cash Transfer Designs: Experimental Evidence from Colombia (with Leigh Linden and Felipe Barrera), *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 11(3): 54-91, July 2019 [[LINK](#)]. [[LINK](#) to NBER working paper #23275].

The Persistent Effects of Youth Savings Reminders: Experimental Evidence from Text-Message Campaigns in Colombia (with Catherine Rodriguez), *Journal of Development Economics*, 139(4): 135-156, June 2019 [[LINK](#)]. (Previously circulated as Nudging Youth to Develop Savings Habits, CESR/Schaeffer working paper 2015-018, [[LINK](#)]).

Educational Impacts and Cost-Effectiveness of Conditional Cash Transfer Programs in Developing Countries: A Meta-Analysis (with Sandra Garcia), *Review of Educational Research*, 87(5): 921-965, October 2017 [[LINK](#)]. [[LINK](#) to NBER working paper # 23594].

The Big Sort: College Reputation and Labor Market Outcomes (with W. Bentley MacLeod, Evan Riehl and Miguel Urquiola), *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 9(3): 223-261, July 2017 [[LINK](#); AEA [VIDEO](#) highlight]. [[LINK](#) to NBER working paper #21230].

Disentangling Disadvantage: Can We Distinguish Good Teaching from Classroom Composition? (with John Engberg, Jennifer Steele and Gema Zamorro), *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, 8(1): 84-111, January 2015. [[LINK](#)].

Resource Constraints and Educational Attainment in Developing Countries: Colombia 1945-2005, *Journal of Development Economics*, 99(1): 80-91, September 2012. [[LINK](#)].

Can Colleges Cultivate Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Writing and Interpersonal Skills? (with Anna Saavedra), *Economics of Education Review*, 30(6): 1516-1526, December 2011. [[LINK](#)].

Are Educational Vouchers Only Redistributive? (with Eric Bettinger and Michael Kremer), *The Economic Journal*, 120(546): F204-F228, August 2010. [[LINK](#)].

Fiscal Governance in Colombia (in Spanish) *Planeación y Desarrollo*, 30, October 1999.

Books

In Pursuit of Teaching Excellence: Improving Educational Quality in Colombia by Improving the Quality of the Teacher Workforce (in Spanish as “Tras la Excelencia Docente,” with Sandra Garcia, Dario Maldonado, Guillermo Perry and Catherine Rodriguez), 2014.

PDF version of book [[LINK](#)]

Press coverage: El Espectador (Editorials) [[LINK](#)] [[LINK](#)] [[LINK](#)]; El Tiempo (Editorial) [[LINK](#)]; El Tiempo (other) [[LINK](#)] [[LINK](#)] [[LINK](#)] [[LINK](#)]; El Espectador (other) [[LINK](#)] [[LINK](#)] [[LINK](#)]; Dinero [[LINK](#)]; Semana [[LINK](#)] [[LINK](#)]; La Nación [[LINK](#)]; WRADIO [[LINK](#)]; El Nuevo Liberal [[LINK](#)]; Vanguardia [[LINK](#)]; El País [[LINK](#)]; Caracol [[LINK](#)]; El Colombiano [[LINK](#)]; La República [[LINK](#)]; Portafolio [[LINK](#)]; Foro Económico [[LINK](#)]; OEA Servicios Educativos [[LINK](#)]; La Opinión [[LINK](#)]; Diario del Huila [[LINK](#)]; El Comunicador [[LINK](#)].

Policy influence:

In 2015 the Colombian Government and the Teachers' Union (FECODE) agreed to adopt the teacher evaluation model we propose in the book [[LINK](#)].

Publications (cont.)

Book Chapters

Earning and Learning: An Approximation to College Value Added in Two Dimensions (peer reviewed, with Evan Riehl and Miguel Urquiola), in *Productivity in Higher Education*, edited by Caroline Hoxby and Kevin Stange. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2019. [[LINK](#) to NBER working paper #22725; [LINK](#) to pre-print book].

Job Training in Colombia (peer reviewed, in Spanish, with Carlos Medina), in *Equidad y Movilidad Social*, compiled by Armando Montenegro and Marcela Melendez. Bogota: Universidad de los Andes, 2014. [[LINK](#)].

Education Vouchers in Colombia (with Eric Bettinger and Michael Kremer) in *Emerging Evidence on Vouchers and Faith-based Providers in Education: Case studies from Africa, Latin America and Asia*, edited by Felipe Barrera-Osorio, Harry Anthony Patrinos and Quentin Wodon. Washington D.C.: The World Bank, 2009. [[LINK](#)].

Invited Journal Articles

Summary and Clarifications on “In Pursuit of Teacher Excellence” (in Spanish, with Sandra Garcia, Dario Maldonado, Guillermo Perry and Catherine Rodriguez), *Revista Colombiana de Educación* 67(2): 89-105, Fall 2014. [[LINK](#)], reprinted in *La Calidad de la Educacion Bajo la Lupa*, edited by Julian de Zubiria Samper. Bogota: Cooperativa Editorial Magisterio, 2015. [[LINK](#)].

Submitted and Working Papers

Premium or Penalty? Labor Market Returns to Novice Public Sector Teachers (with Dario Maldonado, Lucrecia Santibañez and Luis Herrera). [[LINK](#) to NBER working paper #24012]. Revise and resubmit, *Journal of Human Resources*.

School Vouchers, Labor Markets and Vocational Education (with Eric Bettinger, Michael Kremer, Maurice Kugler, Carlos Medina and Christian Posso), working paper. [[LINK](#) to Borradores de Economia working paper #1087; [LINK](#) to Policy Brief].

Press coverage: El Espectador [[LINK](#)].

Awarded the Juan Luis Londoño Prize for Best Paper at the Latin American Economic Association Annual Meetings (Santa Cruz, Bolivia 2015).

Private Schools for Low-Income Children in Mexico: Evidence from Early-Grade Admission Lotteries (with Lucrecia Santibañez, Raja B. Kattan and Harry Patrinos), *under review*.

Wealthier, Happier and More Self-Sufficient: When Anti-Poverty Programs Improve Economic and Subjective Wellbeing at a Reduced Cost to Taxpayers (with Titus Galama and Robson Morgan). [[LINK](#) to NBER working paper # 24090].

The Learning and Early Labor Market Effects of College Quality: A Regression Discontinuity Analysis.

Policy Reports

Youth Savings Patterns and Performance in Colombia, Kenya, Ghana and Nepal (with the YouthSave Research Consortium), YouthSave Research Report, Center for Social Development Publication # 2015-01. [[LINK](#)]. Public release summary [[LINK](#)].

Press coverage: New America Weekly [[LINK](#)].

Publications (cont.)

Policy Reports (cont.)

Evaluation of Norwegian Multilateral Support to Basic Education: Synthesis Report (with the Development Portfolio Management Group), Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation report # 7/2015. [[LINK](#)].

Evaluation Series of NORHED Higher Education and Research for Development: Theory of Change and Evaluation Methods (with the Development Portfolio Management Group), Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation report # 4/2014. [[LINK](#)].

Other Publications

The Role of Disbursement Timing in Conditional Cash Transfer Programmes: Long-term Effects, *VoxDev Article*, October 2017. [[LINK](#)].

The Effects of Conditional Cash Transfer Programs on Poverty Reduction, Human Capital Accumulation and Wellbeing, *United Nations Expert Group Meeting “Strategies for Eradicating Poverty to Achieve Sustainable Development for All*, New York, May 2016. [[LINK](#)]

Long-term Effects of Job Training on Human Capital, *VoxEU Column*, January 2016. [[LINK](#)].

Work in Progress

Conditional Cash Transfers for Education (with Sandra Garcia), in preparation for the *Handbook of Economics of Education* (Eric Hanushek, Stephen Machin and Ludger Woessmann, editors).

Overcoming Informational and Behavioral Obstacles in Access to Tertiary Education (with Eric Bettinger, Michael Kremer, Carlos Medina, Christopher Nielson and Christian Posso).

Gender Differences in Educational and Labor Market Expectations (with with Eric Bettinger, Michael Kremer, Carlos Medina, Christopher Nielson, Christian Posso, Jacqueline Minor and Marianella Ortiz).

Grants and Contracts (as PI or co-PI)

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 2020-2021 | Economic Development Consultant, Department of Economics, Harvard University and Kenneth Griffin Department of Economics, University of Chicago. |
| 2020-2021 | Wealth Shocks, Student Loan Debt and Intergenerational Inequality (co-PI), Student Loan Law Initiative at University of California-Irvine. |
| 2018-2020 | Expert Advisor, Directorate for Education and Skills, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. |
| 2018-2019 | Overcoming Informational and Behavioral Obstacles in Access to Tertiary Education (PI), Jameel Poverty Action Lab. |
| 2017-2018 | Improving Access to Tertiary Education among Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Students in Colombia (PI), Jameel Poverty Action Lab. |
| 2013-2017 | Impact Evaluation of a Low-Cost Private Schooling Model in Mexico (co-PI), Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund, World Bank. |
| 2014-2016 | Labor Markets for Novice Teachers in Developing Countries: Evidence from Colombia (PI), Inter American Development Bank. |
| 2010-2015 | YouthSave: Helping Youth Build a Tangible Stake in Their Future (PI, Colombia Site), MasterCard Foundation and Save the Children. |
| 2014-2015 | Remedial Science Education: Experimental Evidence from Peru (PI), Inter-American Development Bank and Innovations for Poverty Action. |

Grants and Contracts (as PI or co-PI, cont.)

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| 2013-2014 | Limited English Proficiency and Fettered Financial Capabilities among US Hispanic Immigrants (PI), National Institutes of Health RCMAR Grant P30AG043073. |
| 2012-2014 | Job Training in Colombia (PI), Colombian National Planning Department. |
| 2013 | Initial Study Initial Study On How To Improve Student Outcomes Through Data-Driven Decision-Making In Mexican Upper-Secondary Schools (PI), Inter-American Development Bank. |
| 2012-2013 | Improving Self Employment Opportunities and Wellbeing for Economically Vulnerable Population Groups in the United Arab Emirates Through Social Inclusion and Entrepreneurship Development Programs (PI), Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development—Abu Dhabi. |
| 2012-2013 | In Pursuit of Teaching Excellence (PI), Fundación Empresa Privada Compartir, Colombia. |
| 2012 | The Predictive Power of Alternative College Entry Examination Subjects (PI), Instituto Colombiano de Fomento a la Educación Superior (ICFES). |
| 2011 | Educational, Labor Market and Fiscal Impacts of Scholarships for Private Secondary Schooling (co-PI), World Bank. |
| 2009-2011 | Young Scholars Research Grant (PI) Universidad de Los Andes. |
| 2006-2009 | School Voucher Effects and Mechanisms (co-PI), World Bank. |

Honors, Scholarships and Fellowships

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| 2020 | Ad-hoc member, Investment Committee, USAID Development Innovation Ventures |
| 2020 | Keynote speaker (scheduled), Colombian Institute for Education Evaluation (ICFES) International Research Conference. |
| 2017 | Keynote speaker, Colombian Association of Economics Departments (AFADECO). |
| 2016 | United Nations Expert Group Member, Strategies to Eradicate Poverty. |
| 2015 | Juan Luis Londoño Prize for Best Paper at the Latin American Economic Association Annual Meetings (Santa Cruz, Bolivia). |
| 2013-2014 | National Institutes of Health RCMAR Scholar. |
| 2011-2012 | Colombian Institute for Education Evaluation (ICFES) Expert Advisory Board Member. |
| 2005-2009 | Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy Fellowship, Harvard. |
| 2005-2009 | Institute for Quantitative Social Science Graduate Fellow, Harvard. |
| 2007-2008 | Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship. |
| 2007-2008 | Harvard Graduate Society Dissertation Grant. |
| 2008 | Women in Public Policy Research Grant, Harvard. |
| 2007 | Honorable Mention, Research Competition, Fedesarrollo-Colombia. |
| 2007 | Center for International Development Research Grant, Harvard. |
| 2005-2007 | Faculty of Arts and Sciences Doctoral Grant, Harvard. |
| 2005 | Center for International Development Research Grant, Harvard. |
| 2004-2005 | Harvard Kennedy School, Pre-doctoral Fellowship. |
| 2001-2003 | Joint Japan Fund World Bank/Harvard Scholarship. |

Board Memberships

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| 2019- | ConsiliumBots, Director. |
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Previous Employment Experience

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| 2011-2013 | Associate Economist, RAND Corporation. |
| 2009-2011 | Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Escuela de Gobierno Alberto Lleras Camargo, Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia. |
| 2005-2007 | NBER, Research Assistant, Prof. R. Jensen, Cambridge, MA. |

Previous Employment Experience (cont.)

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| 2004 | Inter-American Development Bank, Consultant, Suriname. |
| 2003-2004 | NBER, Research Assistant, Profs. R. Jensen and S. Dynarski, Cambridge, MA. |
| 2002 | Trickle-Up, Summer Intern, India. |
| 2000-2001 | National Planning Department, Evaluation Advisor, Bogotá Colombia. |
| 1999-2000 | National Federation of Coffee Growers, Economist, Government Advisors Office, Bogotá Colombia. |

Professional Activities

Journal reviewer for: *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *American Economic Review*, *American Economic Journals: Applied Economics*, *American Economic Journals: Economic Policy*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Economics of Education Review*, *Labour Economics*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *World Development*, *Journal of Human Capital*, *Higher Education*, *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, *American Educational Research Journal*, *Education Finance and Policy*, *Educational Researcher*, *Nature: Human Behavior*, *Journal of Education Policy*, *Lecturas de Economía*, *Colombia Internacional*.

Proposal reviewer for: *USAID Development Innovation Ventures*, *International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)*, *Inter-American Development Bank*, *Spencer Foundation*, *National Science Foundation*, *National Science Centre (Poland)*.

Symposia Organizer: *Improving Educational Outcomes in Developing Countries* (Association for Policy Analysis and Management 2012); *Access, Attainment and Learning in Higher Education: The Role of Aid, Incentives and Resources* (Association for Education Finance and Policy 2009).
Conference Discussant: *Association for Education Finance and Policy* (2012), *Impact Evaluation Network Annual Meeting* (2009).

Seminars and Presentations

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| 2020 | Colombian Institute for Education Evaluation, International Research Conference (Keynote, Scheduled). |
| 2018 | Universita di Siena (International Conference on Health and Happiness), University of Zurich (Technology for Child and Youth Development Workshop). |
| 2017 | RAND Corporation, Colombian Association of Economics Departments (Keynote). |
| 2016 | NBER Labor Studies Meeting (Spring), UC Irvine School of Education, Occidental College, Yale University-IPA Research Gathering on Financial Inclusion, NBER Productivity of Higher Education, United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Strategies to Eradicate Poverty, NBER Education Meeting (Fall). |
| 2015 | APPAM, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, 10th IZA/World Bank Conference on Employment and Development, NBER Productivity of Higher Education Pre-Conference. |
| 2014 | NBER Education Meeting (Fall), National Institutes of Aging RCMAR Annual Investigator Meetings, NBER Education Summer Institute, Colombian National Economic Conference (Plenary Session). |
| 2013 | Universidad de los Andes, Institute for Higher Education (ICFES- Colombia) |
| 2012 | APPAM, 8th Australasian Development Economics Conference, Columbia University Economics Department, Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, USC, RAND, Inter American Development Bank (Bogotá), Institute for Higher Education (ICFES- Colombia), Universidad de Los Andes (Colombia). |
| 2011 | RAND, Institute for Higher Education (ICFES- Colombia), Universidad de Los Andes (Colombia), Ministry of Education (Colombia). |

Seminars and Presentations (cont.)

- 2010 Universidad del Rosario (Colombia), Universidad de Los Andes (Colombia).
2009 RAND, Mathematica Policy Research, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Society of Labor Economists, Universidad de Los Andes.
2008 Harvard Economics Dept., Institute for Higher Education (ICFES- Colombia)
2007 Harvard Economics Dept., Fedesarrollo (Colombia), Ministry of Education (Colombia), ICFES.

Teaching/Seminar Experience

University of Southern California

- S 2020-21 Public Finance (UG).
F 2019-20 Understanding Financial Crises (UG).
F 2017- Empirical Microeconomics Seminar Organizer (G).
S 2015-21 Advanced Econometrics (UG).

MIT Jameel Poverty Action Lab (Latin America and the Caribbean)

- 2018 Lecturer, Executive Education Impact Evaluation Course, Chile.
2016 Lecturer, Executive Education Impact Evaluation Course, Colombia.
2013 Lecturer, Executive Education Impact Evaluation Course, CONEVAL, Mexico.
Lecturer, Academic Education Randomized Impact Evaluation Course, Inter American Development Bank, Washington, D.C.
2012 Lecturer, Academic and Executive Education Randomized Impact Evaluation Course, Peru.
2011 Lecturer, Executive Education Randomized Impact Evaluation Course, Guatemala.
2011 Lecturer, Executive Education Randomized Impact Evaluation Course, Mexico.
2010 Lecturer and co-organizer, Executive Education Randomized Impact Evaluation Course, Colombia.
2009 Lecturer, Executive Education Randomized Impact Evaluation Course, Chile.

Universidad de Los Andes

- S 2011 Impact Evaluation (G), Public Finance (UG).
F 2010 Impact Evaluation (G).
S 2010 Public Policy and Finance (UG), Human Capital (UG).
F 2009 Public Finance (UG).

Harvard University

- S 2007, 2009 Econometrics (Master), Teaching Fellow, Prof. A. Abadie. Nominated for excellence in teaching award.
F 2006 Intro Econometrics (UG), Teaching Fellow, Prof. J. Stock.
S 2006 Econometrics (Master), Teaching Fellow, Prof. R. Jensen.

Doctoral Committees

Evan Riehl (PhD Economics, Columbia University).

Undergraduate and Research Assistant Placement

Alison Benson (PhD Development Studies, LSE).
Luis Omar Herrera (Inter American Development Bank).
Andrea Cornejo (MPP, Princeton School of International and Public Affairs).
Benji Smith (PhD Applied Economics, University of Pennsylvania Wharton School).
Justin Scott (PhD Finance, MIT Sloan School of Management).
Anbar Aizenman (Federal Reserve Board of Governors).
Shaoshuang Yang (PhD Economics, USC).
Yihang Zhou (PhD Economics, UT Austin).
Xuntao (Tony) Wang (Master in Computational Finance, Carnegie Mellon University).

Undergraduate and Research Assistant Placement (cont.)

Yuchen Shi (Master of Finance, MIT Sloan School of Management).

Derek Zhou (Master in Business Analytics, Columbia Graduate School of Business).

Michael Kawas (JD, University of Chicago Law School).

Sam Chapman (Progressive Degree Program in Economics, USC).

Danielle Kuehler (Progressive Degree Program in Data Analytics, USC).

Sebastian McCrimmon (PhD Statistics, Iowa State University).