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Faculty of Social Science and Public Policy (SSPP)
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Current positions and affiliations

- **Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Development Economics**
Department of International Development
King's College London
Since November 2021
- **Senior Economic Research Consultant**
Office of the Chief Economist and Head of Inclusive Growth
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Since January 2021
- **Research Associate**
Commitment to Equity Institute (CEQ)
Tulane University
Since October 2016

Education

2016-2021	King's College London PhD Development Economics
2005-2007	Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico) MSc Economics and Public Policy
1998-2004	Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (Mexico) BSc Economics

Publications

2,769 academic citations as of 1 March, 2023 ([Google scholar](#))

Journal articles

1. "When Life Gives You Lemons": Using Cross-Sectional Surveys to Identify Chronic Poverty in the Absence of Panel Data (with K. Bolch & L.F. Lopez-Calva), 2022. **Review of Income and Wealth**, DOI: 10.1111/roiw.12566.
2. Measuring Global Poverty Before and During the Pandemic: A Political Economy of Overoptimism (with A. Sumner & C. Hoy), 2022. **Third World Quarterly**, 43(1): 1–17.
 - Other versions available as: [WIDER Working Paper 43](#), [WIDER Working Paper 77](#), and [UNDESA Working Paper](#).

3. Temporary Basic Income in Times of Pandemic: Rationale, Cost, and Poverty-Mitigation Potential (with G. Gray Molina & M. Montoya-Aguirre), 2022. **Basic Income Studies**, 17(2): 125-154.
 - Also available as: [UNDP Transition Series Working Paper](#).
4. Within-Country Poverty Convergence: Evidence from Mexico (with L.F. Lopez-Calva & C. Rodriguez-Castelan), 2022. **Empirical Economics**, 62: 2547–2586.
 - Other versions available as: [IZA Discussion Paper 13577](#) and [WB Policy Research Working Paper 9038](#).
5. Living on the Edge: Vulnerability to Poverty and Public Transfers in Mexico (with A. de la Fuente & C. Rodriguez-Castelan), 2018. **Oxford Development Studies**, 46(1): 10-27.
 - Other versions available as: [WB Policy Research Working Paper 7165](#) and [2014 WDR Background Paper](#).
6. A Long-Term Perspective on Inequality and Human Development in Latin America (with L.F. Lopez-Calva & N. Lustig), 2015. **Journal of Human Development and Capabilities**, 16(3): 319-323.
7. A Vulnerability Approach to the Definition of the Middle Class (with L.F. Lopez-Calva), 2014. **Journal of Economic Inequality**, 12(1): 23-47.
 - Other versions available as: [WB Policy Research Working Paper 5902](#) and Chapter 26 in [Global Labour in Distress, Volume I](#), Palgrave Readers in Economics (2023).
8. Declining Inequality in Latin America in the 2000s: The Cases of Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico (with N. Lustig & L.F. Lopez-Calva), 2013. **World Development**, 44: 129–141.
 - Other versions available as: [WB Policy Research Working Paper 6248](#) and [CGD Working Paper 307](#).
9. A Household-Based Distribution-Sensitive Human Development Index: An Empirical Application to Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru (with L.F. Lopez-Calva), 2012. **Social Indicators Research**, 109(3): 395-411.

Books and editor

10. Geographic Capital and Social Mobility: Unlocking Pathways of Income Earning (forthcoming). **UNU-WIDER Series in Development Economics**. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
11. [Inequality and Human Development in Latin America: A Long-Run Perspective](#) (guest editor with N. Lustig & L.F. Lopez-Calva), 2015. **Journal of Human Development and Capabilities**, 16(3).

Chapters in books

12. [Inequality](#) (with A. Sumner), 2023. In: Phillips, N. (ed.) **Global Political Economy**, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
13. [A Vulnerability Approach to the Definition of the Middle Class](#) (with L.F. Lopez-Calva), 2023. In: Goulart, P., Ramos, R. & Ferrittu, G. (eds.) **Global Labour in Distress, Volume I**, Palgrave Readers in Economics, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.
14. [The Impact of Fiscal Policy on Inequality and Poverty in Chile](#) (with S. Martinez-Aguilar, A. Fuchs & G. del Carmen), 2018. In: Lustig, N. (ed.) **Commitment to Equity Handbook. A Guide to Estimating the Impact of Fiscal Policy on Inequality and Poverty**, Washington DC: Brookings Institution Press.
 - Other versions available as: [WB Policy Research Working Paper 7939](#) and [CEQ Working Paper 46](#).
15. [Deconstructing the Decline in Inequality in Latin America](#) (with N. Lustig & L.F. Lopez-Calva), 2016. In: Basu, K. & Stiglitz, J. (eds.) **Inequality and Growth: Patterns and Policy. Volume II: Regions and Regularities**, International Economic Association Series, London: Palgrave Macmillan.
 - Also available as [WB Policy Research Working Paper 6552](#).
16. [Inequality, Mobility and Middle Classes in Latin America](#) (with J.P. Azevedo, N. Lustig & L.F. Lopez-Calva), 2015. In: Dayton-Johnson, J. (ed.) **Latin America's Emerging Middle Classes**, London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Journal articles and chapters in Spanish

17. [Clases medias y vulnerabilidad a la pobreza. Reflexiones desde América Latina](#) (with G. Cruces, S. Lach & L.F. Lopez-Calva), 2014. **El Trimestre Económico**, 81(322): 281-307 (Fondo de Cultura Económica).
18. [Definición de clase media y estratificación social a partir de un enfoque de vulnerabilidad](#), 2014. In: Hardy, C. **Estratificación social en América Latina: Retos de cohesión social**, Santiago, Chile: LOM Ediciones.
19. [Los determinantes de la disminución de la desigualdad en América Latina](#) (with N. Lustig & L.F. Lopez-Calva), 2014. In: Devlin, R., Echevarria, O.A. & Machinea, J.L. (eds.) **América Latina en una era de globalización**. Ensayos en honor de Enrique V. Iglesias, Caracas, Venezuela: CAF.
20. [Capital social y confianza en las instituciones del Estado: Evidencia desde el México urbano](#) (with L. Rodriguez-Chamussy), 2012. In: Lopez, P. and Soloaga, I. (eds.) **Capital social y política pública en México**, Mexico: El Colegio de Mexico.
21. [Clases medias y vulnerabilidad a la pobreza en América Latina](#) (with L.F. Lopez-Calva), 2012. **Pensamiento Iberoamericano**, 10: 49-70.
22. [Medición multidimensional de la pobreza en México](#) (with L.F. Lopez-Calva), 2009. **Estudios Económicos**, Special issue: 3-33 (El Colegio de Mexico).
23. [Política social y equidad en México](#) (with L.F. Lopez-Calva), 2006. In: Lopez-Calva, L.F., Ortiz-Juarez, E. and Urzua, C.M. (eds.) **Política social para la equidad**, México: Porrúa.
24. [Política social para la equidad](#) (editor with L.F. Lopez-Calva & C.M. Urzua), 2006. México: Porrúa.

Working papers

25. [Mitigating Poverty: Global Estimates of the Impact of Income Support during the Pandemic](#) (with J. Fajardo-Gonzalez, G. Gray Molina & M. Montoya-Aguirre), 2021. UNDP Development Future Series Working Papers.
26. [Corruption in Infrastructure and Social Assistance Funds: Effects on Municipal Poverty](#) (with M. Montoya-Aguirre & L.G. Woo-Mora), 2021. Finanzas Públicas, Centre for Public Finance Studies (CEFP), Chamber of Deputies.
 - Winner of Mexico's National Prize of Public Finance 2020.
27. [The Decline in Inequality in Latin America: How Much, Since When and Why](#) (with N. Lustig & L.F. López-Calva), 2011. ECINEQ Working Paper 211.
 - Also available as [Tulane Economics Working Paper 1118](#).
 - Coverage in [The Economist](#).
28. [Bigger... But Stronger? The Middle Class in Chile and Mexico in the Last Decade](#) (with L.F. López-Calva), 2010. Research for Public Policy, ID-02-2010, UNDP.
29. [Evidence and Policy Lessons on the Links between Disaster Risk and Poverty in Latin America](#) (with L.F. López-Calva), 2009. Background Paper of the 2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, UNISDR.

Institutional reports, policy briefs, and other publications

30. [Cost-of-living Crisis Update: Diverging Food and Energy Prices, Diverging Policy Responses](#) (with S. Ecker & G. Gray Molina), December 2022. Development Future Series, UNDP Global Policy Network Brief. New York: UNDP.
31. [Addressing the Cost-of-living Crisis in Developing Countries: Poverty and Vulnerability Projections and Policy Responses](#) (with G. Gray Molina & M. Montoya-Aguirre), July 2022. UNDP Report for the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2022.
32. [Alternative Uses of Pre-tax Fossil-fuel Subsidies Per Year](#), October 2021. Background note for the UNDP's Don't Choose Extinction Campaign. New York: UNDP.

33. **Eradicating Poverty in a Post-pandemic World: How the G7 Can Act to End both the Pandemic and Global Poverty** (with A. Sumner), June 2021. Essay in: *Build Back Better Together: A Blueprint for a Better World*. London: King's College London.
34. **Protecting Women's Livelihoods in Times of Pandemic: Temporary Basic Income and the Road to Gender Equality** (with M. Montoya-Aguirre & A. Santiago), March 2021. Development Future Series, UNDP Global Policy Network Brief. New York: UNDP.
35. **A Temporary Basic Income (TBI) for Developing Countries** (with G. Gray Molina), July 2020. Transition Series, UNDP Global Policy Network Brief — Social Protection. New York: UNDP.
36. **Regional Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean: Update Policy Note**, October 2017. Special Policy Note, PovRisk Tool. New York: UNDP.
37. **Multidimensional Progress: Well-being Beyond Income** (with G. Gray Molina, M.J. Abud, N. Gómez Arteaga, A. González, J. Sagredo & J. Vásquez), June 2016. *Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean*. New York: UNDP.
38. **Living on the Edge in Mexico** (with A. de la Fuente & C. Rodríguez-Castelán), Summer 2015. *World Bank Research Digest*, 9(4).
39. **Igualdad de oportunidades, pobreza y política social en México: Una perspectiva de largo plazo** (with M.J. Pérez García), May 2013. Mexico: World Bank and CONEVAL.
40. **Why Did Inequality in Latin America Decline in the 2000s?** (with N. Lustig & L.F. López-Calva), Fall 2012. *World Bank Research Digest*, 7(1).

Professional experience

Research and policy

	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Mar 2015-Mar 2016	Senior Economist , Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, New York <i>Project coordination and research on multidimensional social progress</i>
Mar 2013-Mar 2015	Economist , Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, New York <i>Project coordination and policy support on social development and fiscal policy</i>
Mar 2011-Mar 2013	Applied Economist , Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, New York <i>Applied research on poverty, vulnerability, and social policy</i>
Jul 2008-Dec 2010	Researcher , Latin America and the Caribbean Unit for Economic and Policy Analysis, Mexico <i>Data analysis on poverty, inequality, and human development</i>
Feb 2006-Jun 2007	Junior Researcher , Human Development Research Office, Mexico <i>Data analysis on labour markets and human development</i>
	Ministry of Social Development, Mexico
Aug 2007-Jun 2008	Deputy Director of Economic and Social Analysis , Vice-ministry of Planning and Evaluation

Teaching

	King's College London
2023	Advanced Topics in Development Economics , Department of International Development 3 rd year undergraduate level, autumn term
2019-2023	Poverty, Inequality and Inclusive Development , Department of International Development Graduate level, spring terms
2018-2022	Poverty, Inequality and Social Policy , Department of International Development

3rd year undergraduate level, autumn terms

Consultancy

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Aug 2022-Feb 2023 **Economist - Specialist**, Cambodia Office, Policy and Innovation Unit
Microsimulation of the poverty effects of Ukraine-Russia war in Cambodia
- Nov 2021-Feb 2022 **Economist - Poverty Expert**, Cambodia Office, Policy and Innovation Unit
Poverty risk and poverty dynamics assessment
- Sep-Dec 2021 **Consultant**, RBLAC Regional Hub, Panama
Fiscal microsimulation in Guatemala
- Oct-Dec 2020 **Senior Economic Research Consultant**, RBLAC Headquarters, New York
Chronic poverty measurement
- Jun-Dec 2020 **Consultant**, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS), New York
Unconditional basic income schemes
- Aug 2019-Aug 2020 **Consultant**, RBLAC Regional Hub, Panama
Social cohesion measurement
- Sep 2017-Jun 2019 **Consultant**, RBLAC Headquarters, New York
Political economy, poverty analysis, and policy support

The World Bank Group

- Mar-Jun 2022 **Consultant**, Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions (EFI), Washington DC
Chronic poverty and productive assets in West Africa
- Mar-Jun 2021 **Consultant**, EFI, Washington DC
Chronic poverty and productive assets in Senegal
- Mar-Jun 2020 **Consultant**, EFI, Washington DC
Distributional effects of financial inclusion in West Africa
- Feb-Jun 2020 **Consultant**, Poverty and Equity, Washington DC
Nowcasting local welfare effects of the COVID-19 pandemic
Distributional effects of internet penetration in Mexico
- Mar-Jun 2018 **Consultant**, Poverty and Equity, Washington DC
Small-area estimation of poverty in Jamaica
- May 2017 **Consultant**, Poverty and Equity, Washington DC
Small-area estimation of poverty in Panama
- Jan-Jun 2016 **Consultant**, Poverty and Equity, Washington DC
Small-area estimation of poverty and inequality in Jamaica, Mexico and Panama
- Dec 2013-Jun 2014 **Consultant**, Poverty, Gender and Equity Group, Washington DC
Small-area estimation of poverty and inequality in Bolivia, Mexico and Panama
- Jan 2012-Jun 2013 **Consultant**, Poverty, Gender and Equity Group, Washington DC
Small-area estimation of poverty and inequality in Mexico
- Aug-Oct 2012 **Consultant**, Development Research Group: Poverty & Inequality, Washington DC
Small-area estimation of poverty in Nigeria
- Mar-Oct 2011 **Consultant**, Mexico Country Office
Perspective of welfare in Mexico

United Nations University (UNU)

- May-Aug 2020 **Consultant**, World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER), Helsinki
Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on global poverty

Government of Curaçao

- May 2020 **Consultant**, Central Bureau of Statistics, Willemstad

Distributional effects of the COVID-19 pandemic

Feb-Sep 2016 | **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**
Consultant, Social Protection and Health Division, Washington DC
Small-area estimation of poverty in Honduras

Oct 2014-Nov 2016 | **Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB)**
Consultant, Office of the Chief of Staff, Madrid
Socio-economic analysis across Latin America

Dec 2022-Jan 2023 | **Centro de Estudios Espinosa Yglesias (CEEY)**
Advisor
COVID-19 impact module of the 2023 social mobility survey (EMOVI)

Nov 2011-Feb 12 | **Consultant**
Biological standard of living in Mexico

Other affiliations

- **Research Affiliate**, Department of International Development, King's College London (Aug-Oct 2021).
- **Non-resident Associate Research Fellow**, Center for Inter-American Policy & Research (CIPR), Tulane University (Oct 2012-Oct 2016).

Additional information

Awards

2021 | **Department of International Development Research Fund Award**
King's College London

2020 | **Mexico's National Prize of Public Finance** (winner)
Awarded by the Centre for Public Finance Studies (CEFP), Chamber of Deputies
The awarded research provides evidence of the effects of corruption in funds for social assistance and infrastructure on poverty at the municipal level (joint work with M. Montoya-Aguirre & L.G. Woo-Mora)

2016-20 | **Doctoral Scholarship**
Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT), Government of Mexico

2005-07 | **Scholarship for MSc studies**
School of Government, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico City

Refereeing

Journals | Annals of Economics and Statistics; Economics and Business Letters; Empirical Economics; iScience; Journal of Human Development and Capabilities (3); Journal of Social Policy; Latin American Economic Review; Latin American Research Review; Oxford Development Studies; Review of Development Economics; SAGE Open (2); Social Indicators Research; Socio-Economic Review (2); The Journal of Development Studies; The Journal of Economic Inequality (3); Third World Quarterly; World Development. *In Spanish*: Región y Sociedad (El Colegio de Sonora); Revista Cuadernos de Economía (Universidad Nacional de Colombia) (2); Sociología Histórica (Universidad de Murcia); Revista de Estudios Sociales (Universidad de Los Andes).

Grants | Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF); Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

Books | Editorial CEEY (Centro de Estudios Espinosa Yglesias, Mexico)

Other relevant academic training

	London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
2019	Advanced Econometrics
2019	Applied Econometrics and Big Data
	OPHI, University of Oxford
2009	Multidimensional Poverty Analysis
	Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia
2009	Econometrics with Cross-Section and Panel Data
	Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico
2006	Statistical Analysis and Impact Evaluation

Other skills

Languages	Spanish (native speaker); English (proficient)
Software	Stata, R, PovMap, L ^A T _E X