

Elisa Taveras | Assistant Professor

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Current Position

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Assistant Professor, Economics

Rio Grande Valley, TX
2022–

Education

Binghamton University
PhD, Economics

Binghamton, NY
2017–2022

Binghamton University
MA, Economics

Binghamton, NY
2011–2013

Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC)
BSc, Economics
Summa Cum Laude

Dominican Republic
2005–2008

Research and Teaching Interest:

Labor Economics, Household Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Research

Working Papers.....

The Effect of Spouses' Relative Education on Household Time Allocation (Conditionally accepted at the Southern Economic Journal)

abstract: Does spouses' relative education explain their household's distribution of labor? This paper analyzes the effect of educational attainment on time allocated to housework and paid work. To address endogeneity concerns, I implement a novel identification strategy by exploiting changes in spouses' education relationship due to remarriage to identify its effects on their time allocation. I find that when an individual marries a spouse with higher relative education than their previous one, the individual's share of housework time increases while their share of paid work time decreases. I also find that the spouse's relative education reduces the probability of a stay-at-home spouse. The effects are stronger when a husband marries a more educated wife than his previous one. These findings show that relative human capital plays a role in household labor distribution and motivates a more gender-neutral division of labor within households.

An Unintended Effect of School Entrance Age: Pushing Children Ahead through Private School

abstract: Does a child's birth date affect his or her probability of attending a private school? In the United States, most children must be five years old by September to start public kindergarten. An alternative option is to attend private schools, which are not obliged to comply with states' cutoffs. To explore this, I look at the effect of children's quarter of birth on their probability of attending private school by grade (pre-kindergarten through 12th grade). Using the American Community Survey, I find that children born in July–September and October–December are more likely to attend private

kindergarten than children born between April and June. The effect does not persist at higher grades. These findings indicate that, when limited by the entrance age cutoff, parents use private schools to bypass the restriction, giving their children a head start on schooling, and later transfer them to public school as they progress through K–12.

The Skills of Rich and Poor Country Workers (with David Slichter and Daniela Monge)

abstract: We use information on the occupation choices and earnings of immigrants to measure differences in specific skills between workers from rich and poor countries. We have several findings. First, the skills which rich country workers specialize in mirror the skills which high-income individuals specialize in. Second, rich country workers have the greatest advantage in skills related to the ability to generate ideas (like creativity and critical thinking) rather than scientific or technical knowledge. Third, the skills in which rich country workers have the greatest advantage align closely with the skills used in management occupations. Fourth, workers from rich countries are more varied in their skills (e.g., what one Canadian is good at is different from what another Canadian is). These findings do not appear to be accounted for by the non-randomness of immigration or mismeasurement of skills. Overall, our results suggest that rich country workers have skills particularly well-adapted to production processes involving the coordinated efforts of large groups of people.

The Effect of Fertility on Women's Labor Supply: Heterogeneity by Gender Norms

abstract: This paper asks whether the effect of fertility on women's labor supply depends on gender norms. To separate the role of gender norms from institutional features, I compare the labor supply response to having more than two children among women who all live in the United States but were born in different countries. I find that, while women from all countries reduce employment in response to having children, this effect is substantially larger for women who were born in less gender-egalitarian countries. In particular, women from countries with the least egalitarian gender norms have an employment response three times larger than the employment response of natives or immigrants from the most egalitarian countries. Hence, the negative effect of fertility on labor supply decreases with gender egalitarianism.

Work in Progress.....

The Effect of Countries' Technology and Productivity on Human Capital (with David Slichter)

The Income-Amenities Occupation Trade-off: What Workers Gain When They Give Up Wages? (with David Slichter)

The Effect of Migration Laws on the Marriage Market (with Leila Salarpour Goodarzi)

Language Affinity and Immigrants' Educational Outcomes (with Leila Salarpour Goodarzi)

Heterogenous Return to Education Through The Marriage Market

Conferences and Seminars.....

2022: Daniel Patrick Moynihan Syracuse/Cornell Summer Workshop in Education and Social Policy

2021: Graduate Students in Economics of Education Zoom (GEEZ) Seminars; Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) 46th Annual Conference; Western Economic Association International (WEAI) 96th Annual Conference; Southern Economic Association (SEA) 91st Annual Meeting

2020: H2D2 Research Day Conference (student-run interdisciplinary seminar series based in the Department of Economics at the University of Michigan); Annual Meeting of the Society of Economics of the Household (SEHO). Preliminar program: <https://www.unive.it/pag/38114> (paper accepted, conference canceled due to COVID-19); Southern Economic Association (SEA) 90th Annual Meeting; Missouri Valley Economic Association (MVEA) 57th Annual Conference

Experience

Teaching Experience.....

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Department of Economics

Rio Grande Valley, TX
2022–

Instructor:

- Principle of Macroeconomics, Fall 2022

Binghamton University, Department of Economics

Binghamton, NY
2017–2022

Instructor:

- The Economics of Poverty and Discrimination, Summer 2019, Winter 2020, Summer 2020, Winter 2021
- Intermediate Microeconomics, Summer 2021
- The Economics of Developing Countries, Fall 2021, Spring 2022

Teaching Assistant:

- Principle of Microeconomics, Fall 2017
- Macroeconomic Theory I (PhD Level), Fall 2018, Fall 2019
- Microeconomic Theory II (PhD Level), Spring 2019, Spring 2021

Grader:

- Economic Forecasting, Spring 2018
- International Trade, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021
- Macroeconomic Theory (MA Level), Spring 2020
- Math Analysis for Economist (MA Level), Fall 2020

Private Sector Experience.....

Banco Popular Dominicano

Dominican Republic

Product and Channel Analysis Department Manager

2013– 2017

Banco Popular Dominicano

Dominican Republic

Information Senior Analyst

2009 – 2011

Asociación Popular de Ahorros y Préstamos

Dominican Republic

Portfolio Risk Analyst

2008 – 2009

Fellowships and Awards

- Alice Trost Dissertation Award (Binghamton University's Economic Department), 2022
- Binghamton University's Graduate Student Excellence Award in Research, 2022
- Binghamton University's Graduate Student Excellence Award in Teaching, 2020
- Graduate Student Assistantship, Binghamton Department of Economics, 2017–2022
- Fulbright Scholarship Program for postgraduate studies in the United States, 2011–2013
- The Graduate School Scholarship for postgraduate studies at Binghamton University, 2011–2013
- "Programa de INTEC con los estudiantes Sobresaliente" (PIES), scholarship for undergraduate studies at the Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC), 2005 – 2008

Service

2018 – 2019: President of the Economics Graduate Student Organization at Binghamton University

2012 – 2013: Senator of the Economics Graduate Student Organization at Binghamton University

September 2, 2022.