

MARIA MICAELA SVIATSCHI

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Princeton University, *Dept. of Economics and School of Public and Intl. Affairs*, Princeton, NJ

Associate Professor in Economics and Public Affairs

Jul 2024

Assistant Professor in Economics and Public Affairs

Jul 2018

Instructor in Economics

Jul 2017-2018

VISITING APPOINTMENTS

Yale University

Economics Department

Sep 2019- Dec 2019

University of Chicago

Harris School of Public Policy

Jan 2020-Mar 2020

EDUCATION

Columbia University, *Department of Economics*, New York, NY

Ph.D. in Economics

May 2017

M.A. of Philosophy in Economics

May 2013

Universidad de San Andres, Buenos Aires, Argentina

BS and M.A. in Economics

Dec 2007, 2009

PUBLISHED PAPERS

Market Structure and Extortion: Evidence from 50,000 Extortion Payments (*joint with Zach Y. Brown, Eduardo Montero and Carlos Schmidt-Padilla*)

Review of Economic Studies, May 2024

Making a Narco: Childhood Exposure to Illegal Labor Markets and Criminal Life Paths.

Econometrica, Vol. 120, July 2022

Spreading Gangs: Exporting US Criminal Capital to El Salvador.

American Economic Review, Vol. 90, June 2022

US Criminal Deportations and Human Capital in Central America.

American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings, Vol. 109, May 2019

Are Refugees a Burden? Impacts of Refugee Inflows on Host's Consumption Expenditures (*joint with Sandra Rozo*)

Journal of Development Economics, Vol. 148, Jan. 2021

The Effect of Adult Entertainment Establishments on Sex Crime: Evidence from New York City (*joint with Riccardo Ciacci*)

Economic Journal, Vol. 132, July 2021

The Unintended Consequences of Deportations: Evidence from Firm Behavior in El Salvador (*joint with Antonella Bandiera, Lelys Dinarte, Sandra Rozo, Carlos Schmidt-Padilla and Hernan Winkler*)

Economic Development and Cultural Change, May 2022

Gender Violence, Enforcement and Children: Evidence from Women's Justice Centers in Peru (*joint with Iva Trako*)

Journal of Development Economics, May 2024

Sexual Harassment in Public Spaces and Police Patrols: Experimental Evidence from Urban India (*joint with Sofia Amaral, Girija Borker, Nathan Fiala, Anjani Kumar and Nishith Prakash*)

The Quarterly Journal of Economics, May 2025

Gangs, Labor Mobility, and Development (*joint with Nikita Melnikov and Carlos Schmidt-Padilla*)
Econometrica, November 2025

WORKING PAPERS AND WORK IN PROGRESS (IN ADVANCED STAGE)

Rebel Governance and Development: The Persistent Effects of Guerrillas in El Salvador (*joint with Antonella Bandiera, Lelys Dinarte, Juan Miguel Jimenez and Sandra Rozo*) revise and resubmit **Review of Economic Studies**

Can Attitudinal Changes Toward Reporting Curb Violence? An Experimental School Intervention in Peru (*joint with Italo A. Gutierrez, Hugo Nopo and Oswaldo Molina*) revise and resubmit **Quarterly Journal of Economics**

Breaking the Gang: A Preventive Approach to Reduce Recruitment in Schools in El Salvador (*joint with Eleno Castro, Felipe Coy and Carlos Schmidt-Padilla*) reject and resubmit **Quarterly Journal of Economics**

Should I Stay or Should I Go? The Unintended Effects of Enfranchisement (*joint with Wilber Baires and Juan Vargas*)

Reducing Gender-Based Violence in Schools in Mozambique (*joint with Sofia Amaral, Aixa Garcia-Ramos, Selim Gulesci, Sarita Ore Quispe and Alejandra Ramos*)

Gangs Crackdowns (*joint with Nikita Melnikov and Carlos Schmidt-Padilla*)

Gender-based Violence and Police Reform (*joint with Sofia Amaral, Girija Borker, Nishith Prakash*)

Forced Displacement, the Perpetuation of Autocratic Leaders, and Development in Origin Countries (*joint with Nicolás Cabra and Sandra Rozo*)

OTHER RESEARCH

Gentrification and the Rising Returns to Skill (*joint with Lena Edlund and Cecilia Machado*) *Economica*, Vol. 89, April 2022

Auspicious Birth Dates Among Chinese in California (*joint with Douglas Almond, Christine Pal Chee and Nan Zhong*).
Economics and Human Biology, July 2015

POLICY BRIEF AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“Gender and Armed Conflict” (with Siwan Anderson) Economic Policy, 2025, 40(124): 807-842.

“Organized Crime and Development” (with Nicolas Cabra Acela and Santiago Tobon) VoxDevLit, Volume 17, Issue 1, 2025

“The Complex Link between Migration and Organized Crime in Latin America and the Caribbean” with Juan Vargas and Nicolas Cabra Acela 2024

“By deporting 200,000 Salvadorans, Trump may be boosting gang recruitment” The Washington Post, February 12, 2018

Buonanno, P., Vanin, P. and Vargas, J., A Modern Guide to the Economics of Crime, Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022.

AFFILIATIONS

2026 Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD) Fellow 2026 JPAL Affiliate 2021 Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD) Affiliate

2021 AMIE Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics

2020 National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Fac. Research Fellow (DEV, PE)

2019 Center for Economic Studies/Ifo Institute for Economic Research (CESifo), Affiliate

2018 Empirical Studies of Conflict, Associate

SELECTED GRANTS

2026 Alliance \$200,000 (PI), Alliance \$70,000 (PI)

2025 UFGE, World Bank \$250,000 (PI), IPA Human Trafficking Initiative \$200,000 (PI), Recipe Big Research Grants £80,730 (Co-PI)

2024 IPA \$70,000, ieConnect \$250,000, KCP World Bank \$115,000, International Growth Centre \$100,000, FID \$40,000, International Growth Centre £75,000 (Co-I), ieConnect, World Bank \$119,700 (Co-I)

2022 The Fund for Innovation in Development \$199,000 (Co-I), J-PAL Crime and Violence Initiative \$150,000 (Co-I), J-PAL Crime and Violence Initiative \$99,999 (Co-I), RSB – World Bank \$65,000 (Co-I), J-PAL Gender and Economic Agency Initiative \$50,000 (Co-I)

2021 J-PAL Gender Initiative \$50,000, J-PAL Post-Primary Education Initiative \$153,285

2020 GIZ \$30,000, J-PAL CVI \$45,000, ifo Institute \$50,000, Weiss \$60,000, IZA \$30,000, UNICEF Mozambique \$140,000 (PI), World Bank Research Support Budget \$79,000 (Co-I), Princeton University \$75,000 (Co-I), UCHV \$30,000 (Co-I), Weiss Foundation \$30,000 (Co-I)

2019 J-PAL CVI \$70,000, Dean for Research Innovation Fund for New Ideas in the Social Sciences \$50,000, International

Growth Centre \$50,000, Disruptive Technologies for Development Fund World Bank \$150,000, Overdeck Education Innovation Fund \$175,000, UNICEF \$110,000, Gates Foundation \$65,768, Inter-American Development Bank \$19,500, World Bank – DFID \$175,000 (Co-I)

RESEARCH LEADERSHIP

Co-Founder, Princeton Criminal Justice Initiative – Lead research and government partnerships in low- and middle-income countries focused on policies addressing the consequences of organized crime.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow in Economics, 2025

Ralph O. Glendinning Preceptorship, Princeton University 2023

Finalist for the Falling Walls Science Breakthroughs of the Year 2022 in Social Sciences and Humanities 2022

AEJ Applied Excellence in Reviewing Award 2021

Reubens Fellowship in support of research in the Fields of Development, International and Labor Economics for “Making a Narco...,” Columbia University 2015

Best Graduate Paper Award on Topics of Labor and Gender in Latin America for “Long-term Effects of Temporary Labor Demand...,” Center for Distributive, Labor and Social Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean 2015

Wueller Pre-Dissertation Award (runner-up) for “Making a Narco...,” Columbia University, 2014

Field Work Grant, Center for Development and Economic Policy, Columbia University, 2014

Harris Prize Second Year Paper Award (runner-up) for “Long-term Effects of Temporary Labor Demand...,” Columbia University, 2013

Columbia University Doctoral Fellowship, New York, NY, Aug 2011 to present

Best Paper for Young Scholars (runner-up), Development Economics Conference in Bolivia, 2010

Best Paper for Undergraduate Thesis (runner-up), Argentinean Association of Political Economy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2008

Best Undergraduate Thesis, Universidad de San Andres, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2008

OTHER WORK

EXPERIENCE

Inter-American Development Bank, Washington, DC

Research Fellow

Jan 2009 - Aug 2011

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, INVITED TALKS

2024: LSE crime. University of Toronto. Pompeu Fabra University. EIEF. NBER children. University of Oxford. London School of Economics. George Washington University. World Bank. Inter-American Development Bank. Georgetown University. John Hopkins University. Brown University. Summit on Organized Crime, Barbados. Penitentiary Service Argentina. International Monetary Fund. 2023: Columbia University. University of Pennsylvania. University of Toronto. MIT and Harvard development seminar. Brown University. London School of Economics. London Business School. Universidad Catolica de Chile. Universidad de los Andes Chile. Centro de Politicas Publicas Chile. CESifo Critical Junctures Conference. University of Minnesota. Duke University. Extra-Legal Governance in Global Perspective, Brown University.

2022: Yale University. AEA meetings. Universidad de Los Andes. Universidad El Rosario. University of Geneva. University of Zurich. EIEF 5th Junior Applied Micro Workshop. NBER summer institute development session. NBER summer institute political economy session. NBER summer institute national security session. BREAD. NBER development program meeting. NBER political economy meeting. George Washington University.

2021: University of Zurich. Georgetown University. Yale University. UC Berkeley- ARE. University of Gothenburg.

2020: Yale University. University of Chicago. Texas Economics of Crime Workshop. University of Virginia. Brazilian Econometric Society. University of Connecticut. Inter-American Development Bank. World Bank. Erasmus University Rotterdam. Queen’s Mary. Universidad EAFIT. AEA meetings. BREAD.

2019: AEA meetings. UCL. ESOC UC San Diego. University of Michigan. ALCAPONE LACEA CRIME. Simon Fraser University. Science Po. Paris School of Economics. Cesifo Munich. University of Passau. Bocconi University. Gender conference Venice. University of Chicago. London School of Economics. Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan. Harvard University.

2018: AEA meetings. Boston University. Institute for International Economic Studies. Stockholm University. NYU. IZA Gender and Labor. University of Chicago-Harris. Indian Business School. Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile. Brown University. MIT. University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. NBER Development Economics. SOLE. Empirical Studies of Conflict Conference, DC. Development Economics and Policy conference, Zurich.

2017: NBER Children Session. Annual Meeting of Labor Markets and Conflict, Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA). Princeton University. UC Santa Barbara. World Bank. Harvard. MIT. London School of Economics. Warwick University. IESE. INSEAD. UC Berkeley- Haas. University of Michigan. University of Toronto. Stanford University. University of British Columbia. Inter-American Development Bank. Empirical Studies of Conflict Conference, DC.

2016: Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) and Latin American Econometric Society (LAMES) Annual Meeting. Annual Meeting of America Latina Crime and Policy Network.

2015: World Bank Conference on Productivity and Development.

2013-2014: World Bank Conference on Gender and Agency; Leicester Economics PhD Conference; Warwick Economics PhD Conference; NEUDC Northeast Universities Development Consortium. Inter-American Development Bank's Office of Evaluation and Oversight. Fifth Bolivian Conference on Development Economics.

2008-2010: Third Bolivian Conference on Development Economics; XV Annual Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA); John Hopkins University. Bloomberg School of Public Health; Association for Social Economics; Population Association of America; Inter-American Development Bank's Office of Evaluation and Oversight; XLIII Annual Meeting of the Argentinean Association of Political Economy

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

Professor, Department of Economics

Oct 2017 - present

- Development Economics, PhD course
- Development Economics, MPA course

REFeree SERVICES

Econometrica, American Economic Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Journal of Political Economy, American Economic Review: Insights, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies, Demography, Journal of Human Resources, Economic Journal, World Bank Economic Review, Journal of Urban Economics, Journal of Public Economics, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Political Economy, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Economic Development and Cultural Change

LANGUAGES

English (Fluent), Spanish (Native), Portuguese (Basic), French (Basic)

PERSONAL

Citizen of Argentina, Married, 2 children (2020/2022)