

ARTURO ALBERTO AGUILAR ESTEVA

Contact Information

ITAM - Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México
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Personal Information

Gender: Male
Date of birth: August 26th, 1980
Nationality: Mexican

Education

May 2012	Ph.D. Economics, Harvard University
June 2009	M.A. Economics, Harvard University
June 2005	B.A. Economics, ITAM, Honors

Academic Appointments

2024 -	Director, Undergraduate program in Economics, ITAM
2021 -	Co-Director, Master in Economic Theory, ITAM
2012 – 2020	Assistant Professor of Economics, ITAM

Fields of Interest

Research: Development Economics, Health, Economics of Education, Applied Econometrics
Teaching: Econometrics, Microeconomics

Publications

“El Niño and Mexican Children: Medium-Term Effects of Early-Life Weather Shocks on Cognitive and Health Outcomes” with Marta Vicarelli. *World Development* 150 (105690). February 2022. ([link](#))

“Benefits and Unintended Consequences of Gender Segregation in Public Transportation: Evidence from Mexico City’s Subway System,” with Emilio Gutierrez and Paula Soto. *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 64 (4), pp. 1379-1410. July 2021. ([link](#))

“The Effectiveness of Sin Food Taxes: Evidence from Mexico,” with Emilio Gutierrez and Enrique Seira. *Journal of Health Economics*, 77 (102455). May 2021. ([link](#))

“Fidelity of Implementation of Prospera Digital: Evaluation of a Multi-Site mHealth Intervention Aimed at Improving Maternal Health Outcomes in Mexico,” with Pablo Gaitán-Rossi, Selene De la Cerda, Alma C. Pérez, Manett Vargas, and Mireya Vilar-Compte. *Current Developments in Nutrition* 3 (10): nzz107. October 2019 ([link](#))

“Decomposition of Gender Differentials in Agricultural Productivity in Ethiopia,” with Eliana Carranza, Markus Goldstein, Talip Kilic and Gbemisola Oseni. *Agricultural Economics* 46(3): 311-334. May 2015 ([link](#))

“Coping with *La Crisis*” with Georgia Hartman, David Keyes, Lisa Markman, and Max Matus. Chapter in *Mexican Migration and the U.S. Economic Crisis. A Transnational Perspective*, Wayne Cornelius, David Fitzgerald, Pedro Lewin Fischer and Leah Muse-Orlinoff (eds.), Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, UCSD, San Diego 2009. ([link](#))

“Desigualdad de la educación y de los ingresos laborales en México: la importancia de la calidad educativa” with María Elena Ortega, *La Gaceta de Economía*, Autumn 2007, 13 (23): 11-50.

Working Papers

“Going Big in Health: Effect of a Large-Scale Preventive Health Policy,” with Ricardo Gomez and Adrian Rubli. Latest version: December 2023. *Submitted*.

“Poor households first? Effects of the transition between Prospera and Benito Juarez Scholarships. Effects on schooling, labor market outcomes and household expenditure,” joint with Maria Fernanda Berridi, Maria Hurtado, and Santiago Ochoa. Coming soon.

“Race Against the Machine: Learning Improvements in a Data versus Expert-Driven Reading Intervention,” with Federico Molina and Maria Elena Ortega. Coming soon.

“School Committees Versus Centralized Targeting. The Case of High-School Scholarships in Mexico.” Latest version: February 2020. ([link](#))

“Long-Term Effects of PROSPERA on Welfare,” with Cristina Barnard and Giacomo de Giorgi. *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 9002*. Latest version: September 2019. ([link](#))

“The power of information and motivation on women’s maternal health: an application with ad-hoc SMS in Mexico’s Prospera program” with Manett Vargas. Latest version: August 2018. ([link](#))

“Educational Self-Selection among U.S. Immigrants and Returning Migrants,” *IZA Discussion Paper* 7222. ([link](#))

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships

2017	Grant award from U.S. Fund and UNICEF (US\$100,000)
2016	Grant award from the U.K. Foreign Commonwealth Office, Prosperity Fund (£251,194)
2016	Grant award from U.S. Fund and UNICEF (US\$185,185)
2015	Grant award from the Prosperity Fund (UK FCO, £134,477)
2015	Grant award from the All Children Reading Challenge (USAID, Australia Aid, WV, US\$317,387)
2014	Grant award from the Inter-American Development Bank (US\$30,000)
2014	Grant award from the Institute for Money Technology and Financial Inclusion (IMTFI, US\$20,000)
2008-2009	Dissertation Completion Fellowship (Harvard University)
2009	Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (Harvard University)
2006-2010	Harvard University, CONACYT, Fundación México en Harvard Fellowship
2006	Tlacaclé National Prize. First place, undergraduate thesis (Mexico)
2005	Banamex Economics National Prize, First place, undergraduate thesis (Mexico)

Educational and Applied Projects

Econometrics Learning Material ([link](#)). Developed as support for Microeconometrics courses taught at ITAM at the Bachelor and Masters level (under development, available only in Spanish).

Mundo de Libros ([link](#)). ML driven book recommendations for children between 6 and 10 years old based on an algorithm to match books and children based on the student’s reading abilities and interests.

QFD: Qué Funciona para el Desarrollo ([link](#)). Member of the board. QFD is a Mexican non-for-profit organization that unites a team of experts in public policy design with prominent national and

international researchers. QFD seeks to develop rigorous research that is useful and pertinent to boost innovative and evidence-based interventions for social and economic development.

Teaching Experience

2021 -	Causal Methods in Econometrics (graduate), ITAM
2012 -	Applied Microeconometrics (undergraduate), ITAM
2013 -	Applied Econometrics (graduate), ITAM
2016-2020	Econometric Topics (graduate), ITAM
2017-2018	Mexico a Better Perspective, selected economics topics (undergraduate), ITAM
2013-2014	Intermediate Microeconomics (undergraduate), ITAM
2012	Quantitative Methods in Economics (undergraduate), Harvard University, Teaching Fellow for Prof. Gary Chamberlain and Prof. Geert Ridder
2008-2009	Introduction to Econometrics (undergraduate), Harvard University, Teaching Fellow for Prof. Eric Chaney and Prof. Raffaella Giacomini
Fall 2005	Principles of Microeconomics (undergraduate), ITAM

Presentations

2023	WEAI, COLMEME
2022	LACEA
2019	World Bank
2018	APPAM; UCSD
2017	RIDGE
2016	LACEA; UAT
2015	RAND; Seminar on climate change (Mexico)
2013	UVM; IFAD
2012	Mexico's Central Bank; IDB; Georgetown Public Policy Institute; LACEA; APPAM
2011	ITAM; Seminar Huatusco IX (Mexico): "Inequality in the Returns to Education in Mexico"
2008	Harvard-Manchester Summer Workshop on Immigration and Social Change

Other Information

Referee: *American Economic Review; AEJ: Applied Economics; Journal of Human Resources; Journal of Development Economics; Journal of Public Economics; Journal of Environmental Economics and Management; World Development Perspectives; Environment, Development and Sustainability; Journal of Development Studies; World Bank Economic Review; Review of Development Economics; Review of Industrial Organization; Agricultural Economics; European Review of Agricultural Economics; International Journal of Manpower; Latin American Economic Review; Feminist Economics; Violence Against Women; IDB; El Trimestre Económico; NSF Grants*

Affiliations: IZA; LACEA; QFD.

Softwares: Stata, R, Python, LaTeX, Markdown.

Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent), French (basic).

Other Distinctions

2022 -	Mexican National Researchers System
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