

LUCÍA CONTRERAS

University of Manchester, UK \diamond lucia.contreras@manchester.ac.uk

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Public Finance | Development | Applied Microeconomics

EDUCATION

2025 (expected) Ph.D. Economics, **University of Manchester**, Manchester, UK
2024 Enrichment Scholar, **Institute for Fiscal Studies**, London, UK
2018 M.Sc. Economics (with Distinction), **University of Sussex**, Brighton, UK
2014 B.Sc. Economics, **University of Costa Rica (UCR)**, San José, Costa Rica

WORK EXPERIENCE

2019-2021 Senior Researcher, **Institute for Research in Economic Sciences (IICE)**, UCR
2019-2021 Research Assistant, **Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza**
2016-2017 Junior Researcher, **Development Observatory (OdD)**, UCR
2014-2016 Research Assistant, **Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza**
2013-2014 Economic Analyst, **Ecoanálisis Economic and Financial Consultants**

RESEARCH

Work in progress

Distortion and complexity in non-linear tax systems (*with J. Garita*)

Self-employment and informality: Evidence from a dynamic social security schedule (*with J. Garita*)

Informality and taxation: Evidence from a VAT tax base expansion

Publication

Climate change perceptions and adaptive responses of small-scale farmers in two Guatemalan landscapes. *Agronomía Centroamericana*, 30 (2) (*with B. Viguera, F. Alpízar, C. Harvey, R. Martínez-Rodríguez and M. Saborío-Rodríguez*)

Other work

Gone with the rain: Effects of abnormal precipitation on school dropout rate (*with L. Villalobos and J. Robalino*)

Is there an earnings gap between informal and formal employees? Evidence from Peru (M.Sc. dissertation)

POLICY WORK

Desarrollo de una propuesta metodológica y de una hoja de ruta para la medición de los recursos destinados a la niñez y adolescencia en Costa Rica: principales resultados del proyecto, 2020 (*with J. Robalino and L. Oviedo*) Available here.

Impacto económico del impuesto al plástico, 2019 (*with J. Robalino, R. Lucke, and L. Oviedo*) Available here.

Perspectivas de la energía eólica en Costa Rica: estado, retos y oportunidades, 2017 (*with P. Sauma*) Available here.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- **Distortion and complexity in non-linear tax systems: Evidence from Costa Rica** Third Conference of Economists Costa Rica. December 2023.
- **Economic study of the bill for the management and regularisation of the State's Natural Patrimony and the Provision of Environmental Utility Rights -DUA Law** (title translated from Spanish). Presentation in front of the Special Commission of coastal and border zones that occupy public lands in a situation of conflict. Costa Rican Congress. Virtual Presentation. July 2021.
- **Effects of precipitation anomalies on school dropout rates.** Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Environment for Development Initiative. University of Gothenburg. Virtual Conference. November 2020.
- **Methodological proposal to measure public expenditure on children** (title translated from Spanish). Presentation in front of State Ministers and representatives of the National Council for Children and Adolescents. Presidential House of the Republic of Costa Rica, San José, Costa Rica. November 2019.
- **Socioeconomic context and preliminary results from the household survey.** Third Annual Meeting of the CASCADE Project. Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), Turrialba, Costa Rica. November 2015.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Economics, University of Manchester		
Graduate Teaching Assistant	Economics for Public Policy, Microeconomics 2	<i>2022-2023</i>
School of Economics, University of Costa Rica		
Postgraduate Level Lecturer	Research Methods	<i>2019-2021</i>
Undergraduate Level Lecturer	Introduction to Economics	<i>2017</i>
Undergraduate Level Assistant	Introduction to Economics	<i>2012</i>
Department of Economics, University of Sussex		
Graduate Teaching Assistant	Economic Principles	<i>2018-2019</i>

AWARDS, GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Economics PhD Studentships , University of Manchester	<i>2021-2025</i>
Mentorship Support Fund , University of Costa Rica Grant aimed at junior researchers to strengthen their research capacities, with the support of a mentor	<i>2020</i>
Chevening Scholarship , British Foreign and Commonwealth Office	<i>2017</i>
Academic Development Programme , School of Economics, University of Costa Rica Programme supporting young economists wishing to progress into postgraduate studies abroad	<i>2016</i>
Teaching Assistantship Scholarship , University of Costa Rica	<i>2012</i>
Academic Excellence Scholarship , University of Costa Rica	<i>2010</i>
Among the 20 Best Admission Test Results , University of Costa Rica	<i>2009</i>

OTHER SKILLS

Programming Languages and Frameworks: Stata, R, Matlab, ArcGis, QGis, L^AT_EX

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