

MARIA LAURA SANCHEZ PUERTA

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Nationality: Argentine + Date of Birth: 3/29/75

SUMMARY

Doctor of Philosophy in economics with expertise on development, poverty, labor economics, and econometrics. Outstanding research and analytical skills. Extensive experience in conducting poverty and labor market assessments, and household survey analysis. Able to translate research into actionable policies. Recognized for sharp communication skills, innovative ideas, leadership, and teamwork. Obtained field experience in East Asia, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

EDUCATION

Cornell University, Department of Economics, Ithaca, NY August 2005
Ph.D. in Economics

Cornell University, Department of Economics, Ithaca, NY May 2003
Master in Economics

Universidad Nacional del Sur, Bahía Blanca, Argentina March 1999
Bachelor of Arts in Economics (5-year degree)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The World Bank Human Development Network Social Protection (HDNSP)

May 2007- Present

Economist [Full-Time]

- **Task Team Leader for HDNSP Labor on the Cognitive, Non Cognitive, and Technical Skills Measurement work.** Teamed up with the Education Unit and regional teams. The objective of this task was to develop innovative household and employer surveys to measure cognitive, non-cognitive and technical skills and examine skill mismatching in low and middle income countries. Furthermore, this will help evaluate the ways in which the current education and training systems develop key skills to improve competitiveness in the global economy.
- **Co-Task Team Leader for the work on Activation/Graduation Policies** in conjunction with Safety Nets Team. The objective of this research was to review international experiences on the design and implementation of activation programs in order to identify best policy options for particular population groups in developing countries.
- **Labor Market Informality, Globalization and Poverty- Trust Fund Manager (TFESSD)** Created special survey modules on informal labor markets to evaluate the value of Social Security affiliation for Latin American, Eastern European and Central Asian workers. Analyzed the impact of the inflow (or outflow) of export-focused FDI on wage premiums and working conditions in five developing.
- **Labor Market Partnership: Responsible for relationship with ITUC and ILO-** Organized High Level and Interim Meetings among ITUC, IMF, and WB. Participated in numerous corporate activities, such as preparing briefings for the WB President on labor market issues for meetings with UN, ILO and trade unions.

- **Task Team Leader for the Flagship Labor Market Core Course: 2008-2012.** Prepared course agenda and invited resource people (including speakers from academia, think tanks, policy institutes, trade unions, and WB). Received Spot Award for outstanding delivery.
- **Cross Support Latin America (Bolivia, Peru, Brazil, Argentina, El Salvador)- North Africa (Tunisia, Lebanon)- East Asia (Indonesia, Cambodia)- Africa (Mauritania, Benin)**

The World Bank Europe and Central Asia Human Development Unit

August 2005- April 2006

ET Consultant [Full-Time]

- **Task Team Leader for the Programmatic Poverty Assessment Romania**
- Prioritized the analysis of linkages of poverty with labor market variables.
- **Economic Analysis of Local Social Service Delivery Project Serbia:**
-Responsible for economic analysis and monitoring and evaluation of decentralization in health, education, and social protection sectors.
- **Co-author of Labor Market Assessments (Albania, Serbia, Turkey):**
-Wrote chapter on women in the labor market, with specific emphasis on preferences, human capital, and discrimination..
-Authored chapters on labor market trends, informality, and wage determination.
-Conducted capacity building seminars for the Statistical Office in Belgrade.
- **Modeled pension systems with PROST:**
Serbia: Simulated reform scenarios for a gender impact analysis for the PSIA
- **Co-author of Regional Study “The Third Transition: From Red to Gray”:**
-Coauthored chapters evaluating the labor market impacts of changing demographic structures in ECA in the next twenty- five years.

The World Bank, ECSHD

February-May 2005

Consultant [Part-Time]

- **Labor Market Assessment:** Bosnia-Herzegovina. Produced Background Paper, constructed panel data using LSMS 2002 to 2004, and provided dynamic analysis of the labor market. Provided critical input for discussions with the government on the consequences of minimum wages increases and the unemployment insurance system.

The World Bank, LCSPE

Sept 2004 – Feb 2005

Consultant [Part-Time]

- Helped resume the policy dialogue, after years of hostility of the Argentine government towards the World Bank and IMF due to the economic crisis in 2001.Organized a conference on “pro-poor” growth. Discussed policies linking economic growth and infrastructure, education, fiscal, trade and PSD units with government officials.

The World Bank, LCSPP-Poverty Sector

May – August 2002

Consultant [Full-Time]

- Investigated the concept of subjective perception, life satisfaction, happiness, and poverty using data on youth from Paraguay. . Found that some policies, which may not have a direct impact on objective measures of welfare, may still improve subjective perceptions. Produced input into updates of Poverty Assessments.

Yale University, John Roemer
Research Assistant [Full-Time]

June – October 2003

- Measured and compared equality of opportunity in the U.S. and Britain. Discovered that even though according to the most stringent definitions equality of the opportunity has not been achieved in any of two countries, in general the U.S. has more equality of opportunity than Britain.

Universidad Nacional del Sur (UNS), Argentina
Research Associate [Full-Time]

March 1999 – July 2000

- Through a very competitive process at the national level, was awarded a two-year Research Fellowship at the UNS. Participated actively in weekly faculty meetings to present and evaluate working papers.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
Teaching Assistant

2002 – 2005

“Labor Economics”, Professor Gary Fields (Fall 2003-Fall 2004) *Masters* Program, ILR

“International Macroeconomics”, Professor Assaf Razin (Fall 2003), *PhD* level.

“Intermediate Microeconomics”, “Development of Economic Institutions”, “Economic Security”, Undergraduate level.

Universidad Nacional del Sur, Argentina
Teaching Assistant

1997 - 2000

“Introduction to Economics”, “Macroeconomics” and “Operations Research”

PUBLICATIONS/WORKING PAPERS

- “*Improving access to jobs and earnings opportunities: the role of activation and graduation policies in developing countries*”, **Social Protection Discussion Paper 1204**, March (2012) with R.Almeida, J. Arbelaez, M. Hoonorati, A.Kuddo, T.Lohmann, M.Ovadiya, L.Pop and M.Weber.
- “*Earnings Mobility in Urban Argentina: 1996-2003*”, **World Development Volume 38, Issue 6** (2010) with Gary Fields (also WIDER Research Paper RP2008/06.)
- “*Labor Market Policy Research for Developing Countries: Recent Examples from the Literature. What do we know and what should we know?*”, **Social Protection Discussion Paper 1001**, January (2010).
- “*Personal Opinions about the Social Security System and Informal Sector Participation: Evidence from Bulgaria*”, **Social Protection Discussion Paper 915**, World Bank (2009) with V.Perotti.
- “*The Mauritanian Labor Market through the Lens of the 2004 National Household Survey*”, **World Bank Policy Research Working Paper, WPS 4954** (2009) with T.Rajadel, and N.Pontara.
- “Integrating the Poor into Labor Markets”. World Bank mimeo (2008) with S.Puerto.
- “*Earnings Mobility in Argentina, Mexico, and Venezuela: Testing the Divergence of Earnings Mobility Hypotheses?*”, **IZA Working Paper 3184** (2007) with R.Duval, G.Fields, and S.Freije.
- “*Intra-generational Mobility in Latin America*”, **Economia Volume 7, No 2** (2007) with R.Duval, G. Fields, and S.Freije.
- “*How is Convergent Mobility Consistent with Rising Inequality? A Reconciliation in the Case of Argentina*”, Background Paper for the World Bank Report “Argentina: Seeking Sustained Growth and Social Equity” (2005) with G.Fields.

- “*Stylized Facts on Poverty, Inequality, and Economic Growth in Argentina*”, Background Paper for the World Bank Report “Argentina: Seeking Sustained Growth and Social Equity” (2005).
- “*Subjective Perception of Welfare of Youth in Paraguay*”, World Bank, mimeo (2004) with Q.Wodon.
- “*Income Inequality by Source in Argentina: Comparing Cross-Section and Panel Estimates*”, World Bank, mimeo (2004) with Q. Wodon.
- “The Concept of Evolution in the History of Economic Thought”, **Estudios Economicos, U.N.S., vol. XVI (35)**: pp. 125-162, January-June (2000).

BOOKS-CHAPTERS

- “*Training programs for youths and adults: Targeting the unemployed, low income or low skilled workers*” for “Skills Development Strategies to Improve Employability and Productivity: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead”, with J. Kluve and F. Rother (World Bank, forthcoming).
- “*Facilitating Labor Market Transitions through Targeted Active Labor Market Programs*” in “Good Jobs Needed: The Role of Macro, Investment, Education, Labor and Social Protection Policies” with May Wazzan and Haneen Sayed (World Bank, forthcoming).
- “*Managing Labor Market Risks*” in “From Right to Reality: Incentives, Labor Markets, and the Challenge of Universal Social Protection in Latin America and the Caribbean”, with D. Robalino (World Bank, 2012).
- “*Building a Skilled Labor Force- Non-formal job skills training programs*” in “The Indonesian Jobs Report: Towards better jobs and security for all”(World Bank, 2011)
- “Providing skills for equity and growth: preparing Cambodia's youth for the labor market”, Human Development Department East Asia and Pacific Region, with Jamele Rigolini, Laura Pabon, Mariana Infante Villarroel and Andrew Jones, (World Bank 2010)
- “Globalization, Wages, and the Quality of Jobs: Five Country Studies” Edited with D.Brown, R.Robertson, and G.Pierre, (World Bank, 2009)..
- “*Demographic Change and Labor Markets*”, in “The Third Transition: From Red to Gray”, with G. Betcherman, (World Bank, 2007).
- “*School to work transition in Turkey: Micro evidence from cross sections and synthetic cohorts’ analysis*” in “Investing in Turkey's Next Generation: The School to Work Transition and Turkey's Development”, with J.Fares (World Bank, 2007).
- “*How Demanding Should Equality of Opportunity Be, and How Much Have We Achieved?*”, in Frontiers in Social and Economic Mobility, with V.Dardanoni, G.Fields, and J.Roemer. (Stanford University Press, 2006)

POLICY NOTES

- “Active Labor Market Policies for Youth-A Framework to Guide Youth Employment Interventions”, World Bank Employment Policy Primer (2010) with W. Cunningham and A. Wuermli.
- “Incentivos a la formalización de trabajadores independientes y microempresas y sus lecciones para Colombia” World Bank (2010) with P. Acosta and F.Ochoa.
- “Globalization, Wages and the Quality of Jobs-Lessons for Policy Makers” World Bank Employment Policy Primer #15 December (2009) with D.Brown, R.Robertson, and G.Pierre.

- “Containing Unemployment in Mexico: Role of Labor Policies in Response to the Financial Crisis” World Bank (2009) with D. Robalino.
- “The Effects of Globalization on Working Conditions in Developing Countries: An Analysis Framework and Country Study Results World Bank Employment Policy Primer #9 March (2008) with D.Brown, R.Robertson, and G.Pierre.
- “Serbia Labor Market Study”, World Bank (2006) with G.Betcherman, T.Boskovic, S. Jain, and A.Kuddo.
- “Albania Labor Market Study”, World Bank (2005) with G. Betcherman.

HONORS/AWARDS

IZA Research Fellow since November 2007

Referee: Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Economic Inequality, Revista de Analisis Economico

Sage Foundation Fellowship, Cornell University 2004-2005

Fulbright Scholarship to pursue the PhD in Economics at Cornell University, 2000-2005

Graduate Research Scholarship, Universidad Nacional del Sur, 1999-2000

Ranked first in class of 1999, Universidad Nacional del Sur

CONFERENCES/PRESENTATIONS

WB- IZA Conferences, 2007-2008-2009.

IADB, Research Department Seminar, February 2006.

ECINEQ, Society for the Study of Economic Inequality, Mallorca, Spain, 2005.

SMYE, Spring Meeting for Young Economists, Switzerland, 2005.

LACEA, 9th Annual Meeting, San Jose, Costa Rica, 2004.

LACEA, 8th Annual Meeting, Puebla, Mexico, 2003.

Universidad de Carabobo, Venezuela, International Conference, 2000. Invited to present.

Argentine Association of Political Economy. 34th Annual Meeting, Argentina, 1999.

SKILLS/INTERESTS

Software: PROST, UISIM, EViews, Stata, TSP.

Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent), French and German (good), Portuguese (fair), Russian (beginner).

Nationally ranked professional singles tennis player (1992-1994)

Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do (2005)

VOLUNTEER

Red Cross Volunteer, Cornell University 2002-2005.

March of Dimes for Healthier Babies (outstanding fundraiser) 1993 and 2004-05.

Mentor for Minority Students (freshman) Cornell University 2004.

REFERENCES

David Robalino, Lead Economist, HDNSP, 1818 H Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20433, (202) 473-4875; E-mail: drobalino@worldbank.org

Professor Gary Fields, Department of Economics, 250 Ives Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; (607) 255-4561; FAX: (607) 255-4496; E-mail: gsf2@cornell.edu.

Gordon Betcherman, School of International Development and Global Studies at the University of Ottawa, 550 Cumberland Street, Ottawa, Canada (K1N 6N5), 613-562-5817; E-mail: gordon.betcherman@uOttawa.ca