

Oscar Barriga-Cabanillas

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Agricultural & Resource Economics
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EDUCATION

University of California, Davis, Davis, CA USA

Ph.D. student, Agricultural & Resource Economics (Expected graduation: 2021)

- Fields: Development Economics and Public Economics
- Advisors: Travis Lybbert, Steve Boucher, Ashish Shenoy

Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia

M.A., Economics, 2012

B.A., Economics, 2010

JOB MARKET PAPER

“Digital credit to finance your calls: How credit access allows people to spend more”
(with Travis Lybbert)

Algorithmic insights from individual meta data have enabled a proliferation of mobile financial services in markets where information asymmetries and high provision costs tend to deter formal lenders. As the first such financial product typically offered to new users, airtime loans provide prepaid customers small airtime advances when they are unable to recharge their accounts. Relying on rich administrative data from a mobile network operator in Haiti, we study the impact of airtime loans on consumer’s expenditure and network behavior. We find that access to loans increases total expenditure by 16%, which represents a crowding-in of new communication expenditure well beyond the fees associated with the loan. This expenditure response to airtime loans is distinctly heterogeneous. Poorer customers in the lowest tercile of initial expenditure more than double their mobile communication spending when airtime loans become available, while access to loans leaves expenditure of the highest tercile unchanged. These pronounced differences in the expenditure impacts of airtime loans exist despite relatively uniform patterns of loan usages between the poor and non-poor. We find suggestive evidence that these differences are driven by distinct motivations for requesting airtime loans: Poorer customers appear to use loans to relax liquidity constraints at critical communication times whereas non-poor customers primarily use these loans for convenience, as it gives them more discretion in when to visit airtime vendors.

PUBLICATIONS

“Fitting and interpreting correlated random coefficient (CRC) models using Stata.”
The Stata Journal, 18(1):159–173, 2018 (with Tjernstrom, Michler and Michuda)
Check the entry in the Development Impact Blog

“Inequality Stagnation in Latin America in the Aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis.”
Review of Development Economics, 21: 157-181, 2017

WORKING PAPERS

“A Group Random Coefficient Approach to Modeling Heterogeneity in Technology Adoption.”
(with Tjernstrom, Ghanem, Lybbert, Michler and Michuda)

“Can Call Detail Records Predict Household Food Security Outcomes? Evidence from an Impact Evaluation in Haiti?”
(with Blumenstock, Lybbert and Putman)

	“The Effects of Local Market Concentration and International Competition on Firm Productivity: Evidence from Mexico.” (with Rodriguez-Castelan and Lopez-Calva)	
BOOK CHAPTERS	Barriga-Cabanillas et al. (2015). Chapter 9: Poverty and Shared Prosperity in Uruguay In L. Cord & M.E. Genoni (Eds.), Shared Prosperity and Poverty Eradication in Latin America and the Caribbean	
PROGRAMMING	“PROSPERITY: A Stata module to compute the Shared Prosperity Convergence Index”	
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<i>Main Instructor:</i> Development Economics (undergraduate)	Winter 2017
	<i>Teaching Assistant:</i> Econometrics (graduate) Development Economics (undergraduate) Econometrics (ungraduate)	Spring 2017 Fall 2016 Winter 2015
	<i>Other Teaching (Main Instructor):</i> BITSS: Research Transparency and Reproducibility Training Experimental Economics Workshop: Transparency and Replicability	April 2018 January 2019
FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS	Henry A. Jastro Graduate Research Award <i>Research grant</i> Digital Credit Observatory-Center for Effective Global Action (with Travis Lybbert) <i>Grant to evaluate the welfare impacts of the introduction of Digital Credit in Haiti.</i> Miguel Velez Fellowship <i>Given annually to doctoral students judged to display scholarly promise</i> Blum Family Foundation <i>Research grant</i> Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences (BITSS) <i>Research grant</i>	2019 2018 2017 2017 2016
ACADEMIC SERVICE	President of the Graduate Student Association <i>Agricultural & Resource Economics department.</i>	2017
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	<i>2019:</i> Bogota Experimental Economics Conference <i>2018:</i> The World Bank Jobs and Development Conference, AAEA annual meeting <i>2017:</i> AAEA annual meeting.	
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	The World Bank Poverty and Equity Group. Poverty Reduction and Economic Management for Latin America and the Caribbean Region. Washington D.C.	2012-2014
	CONSULTANT National Planning Department Rural development of Colombia’s western plains, Office for Rural Development.	2011-2012
	Econometria SA Impact evaluation of the Colombian government rural security initiative.	2011-2012

SKILLS

- Statistical Packages: Python, R, Stata
- Other: \LaTeX , QGIS
- Languages: Spanish (Native), English (Fluent), French (Read), Portuguese (Basic)