March 7, 2024

Ana Paula Milán Hinostroza
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To the Mentoring Program on Aging and Health Economics Research Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in participating in the **NBER Mentoring Program on Aging and Health Economics Research**. My name is Ana Paula Milán Hinostroza, and I am a third-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Economics at the University of New Mexico (UNM). I consider myself a public economist with a focus on health behavior. Most of my work lies at the intersection of public policy and risky health behaviors, especially substance use.

My current research revisits the impact of beer taxes on alcohol-related traffic fatalities using causal inference techniques. As I am starting my dissertation, I am looking to expand my research areas and I am considering studying health and aging. While I lack prior experience studying the aging population, my personal connection to this field is what drives my interest in understanding and addressing the disparate health outcomes faced by older adults. My grandmother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease five years ago and this has deeply influenced my commitment as a scholar to better understand the needs of the aging population.

I believe this program can help me find research areas where I can contribute and connect my experience working with risky health behavior to the aging population, especially to those who suffer from Alzheimer's disease. Although this area of research is personally relevant to me, nobody at my institution currently performs this type of research, making it challenging to find resources to explore these topics. Therefore, attending this mentoring program would be extremely beneficial to me since it can help me discover the frontiers of research in health and aging and also provide practical tools like data and methods workshops that I can use throughout my research journey.

I am particularly interested in learning the new advances of econometrics and how they are being used in health economics, especially the newer difference-in-difference estimators. In addition, I am excited about the opportunity to connect and collaborate with other health and aging economists who can give me a better understanding of the field and how I could fit in.

Although my institution has given me the introductory tools to understand health research, I believe there is still much more I need to learn. I am excited for the potential opportunity to learn, connect and further develop as a researcher at the NBER Mentoring Program on Aging and Health Economics Research. My ultimate goal is to develop research initiatives that contribute to reducing disparities faced by aging populations, especially those with Alzheimer's disease. Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,



Ana Paula Milán Hinostroza
Doctoral Student, UNM Department of Economics

Research Statement

Ana Paula Milán Hinostroza

March 2024

My research employs current applied econometric methods to investigate avenues for improving public health outcomes, particularly addressing risky health behaviors such as alcohol consumption. With a focus on producing policy- and community-relevant research, my goal is to provide practical solutions to the health and social challenges associated with risky health behaviors. In addition to estimating treatment effects, I prioritize exploring the underlying mechanisms driving the results to gain deeper insights into the causal effects of specific policies.

1 Current work

My first line of research studies the impact of beer excise taxes on alcohol-impaired traffic fatalities. Although there is a large literature on the subject, the effectiveness of alcohol taxes in reducing traffic fatalities remains debated. By using recently introduced dynamic event study estimators that account for differential treatment timing and heterogeneous treatment effects, I revisit this question and find compelling evidence that increases in beer taxes reduce alcohol-impaired traffic fatalities. I also consider potential mechanisms underlying this finding such as variation in the time of day and the week of the fatalities and different age distributions.

Building upon this subject, I also study the impact of ad-valorem taxes on alcohol consumption, alcohol-impaired traffic fatalities and crime. Unlike excise taxes which are based on a fixed amount per gallon or liter of alcohol, ad-valorem taxes are a percent tax on the price of the alcoholic beverage. Focusing primarily on Maryland, where an ad-valorem tax on all alcoholic beverages was implemented in 2011, I employ difference-in-difference and synthetic control methods to investigate these outcomes comprehensively. Preliminary results support the idea that ad-valorem taxes are an effective policy to reduce the negative externalities associated with excessive alcohol consumption.

2 Future work

Looking ahead, I want to broaden my research scope to include other aspects of substance use, with a specific focus on the aging population. The aging demographic presents challenges and opportunities in understanding the connection between alcohol consumption and health outcomes. In particular, I want to understand how alcohol use may impact cognitive decline and neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer. My goal is to investigate the socioeconomic determinants and behavioral patterns associated with alcohol consumption in this population that can inform targeted interventions and policy measures aimed at promoting healthy aging and reducing health disparities.

Attending the NBER Mentoring Program on Aging and Health Economics Research workshop would be instrumental in developing my research in health and aging. At my institution, there is limited focus on this type of research, which makes it challenging to access resources and identify appropriate methodologies and data sets I can use. The data and methods workshops, and the networking opportunities that the program provides can help me overcome these challenges and will give me guidance on how to navigate and develop my research in the field. I am committed to contributing to evidence-based policies and interventions that enhance societal well-being and participating in this mentoring program will bring me closer to achieving this goal.

ANA PAULA MILÁN HINOSTROZA

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Revised March 2024

EDUCATION

University of New Mexico (UNM)	Albuquerque, NM
Ph.D. in Economics	*Expected* 05/2026
M.A in Economics	05/2023
B.S. in Statistics, *Summa Cum Laude*	05/2021
B.A. in Economics, *Summa Cum Laude*	05/2021

RESEARCH INTEREST

Health Economics, Public Economics, Applied Econometrics, Latin American Economics.

TEACHING INTEREST

Introductory Microeconomics, Intermediate Microeconomics, Public Economics, Health Economics, Introduction to Statistics and Econometrics, Public Finance, Game Theory.

REPORTS AND OTHER SCHOLARLY WORK

1. Mendiaz Rivera, A., **Milán Hinostroza, A.P.**, Castillo, F.E., Garcia, G., & Toscano, N. (2023). Building Bridges: El Puente Research Fellowship's Pedagogical Approaches Centering the Experiences of FGWC LatinX Students. *Teaching Sociology: "Teaching Sociology by, for, and about First-Generation and Working-Class Persons."* 51(3): 288-300 . doi: `https://doi.org/10.1177/0092055X231174511`

2. Dixon, D., **Milán Hinostroza, A.P.**, Horn, B.P., & Cooley, T. (2023). The Impact of Alcohol Taxes and Liquor Licenses in New Mexico. *White paper*, submitted to the State of New Mexico Legislature.

3. Horn, B.P., Dixon, D., & **Milán Hinostroza, A.P.**(2022). Alcohol Regulation and Taxes in New Mexico. *White paper*, submitted to the State of New Mexico Legislature.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

In preparation for submission

1. Sanchez, G. & **Milán Hinostroza, A.P.**. The Impact of Information on Sweetened-Sugary Beverages Tax Support.

2. **Milán Hinostroza, A.P.**, Horn, B.P., & Li, X. Revisiting Alcohol Excise taxes as a measure to Address Alcohol Related and Alcohol Impaired Traffic Fatalities.

3. **Milán Hinostroza, A.P.** & Horn, B.P. The Impact of State Ad-Valorem Excise Taxes on Alcohol-Related Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes.

CONFERENCES AND INVITED TALKS

Milán Hinostroza, A. (2023, Jul 23). Revisiting Alcohol Excise taxes as a measure to Address Alcohol Related and Alcohol Impaired Traffic Fatalities. [Panel presentation] Himalayan Policy Research Consortium (NSC), Albuquerque, NM, United States.

Milán Hinostroza, A. (2023, Jul 19). "Collectively Building Bridges for First-Generation Working-Class Students: Pláticas Centering the Pedagogical Practices of Convivencia in El Puente Research Fellowship". [Panel presentation] Teaching Sociology webinar on Teaching Sociology by, for, and about First-Generation and Working-Class People, Boston, MA, United States.

Milán Hinostroza, A. (2023, Apr 1 – 5). El Puente Research Fellowship: Transforming Academia to work for underserved students. [Panel presentation] National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), Boston, MA, United States.

Milán Hinostroza, A. (2023, Mar 22). Collaborative Publishing: Research as a Praxis of Convivencia and Justice. [Panel presentation] The University of New Mexico Spring Teaching and Learning Conference, Albuquerque, NM, United States.

Milán Hinostroza, A. (2022, Sept 29). Platica & Convivencia: Engaging subaltern pedagogical approaches and methods in El Puente Research Fellowship, in publishing, and the classroom.. [Panel Presentation] Advisor Institute, University of New Mexico, NM, United States.

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

UNM Health and Social Policy Fellowship	2022 - Present
El Puente Research Fellowship	2021 - Present
UNM Graduate and Professional Student Association: Professional Development Grant	2023
UNM Graduate and Professional Student Association: Student Research Grant	2023
Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics, *mentee*	Aug 2023 - Present
Afzaal Hussain Award for Community Engagement and Charismatic Leadership	2023
Supplemental Funding Awards for Research and Conference Presentations, UNM Southwest Hispanic Research Institute	2022
Brian Colón Exemplary Service Award	2022
Ida Romero Memorial Scholarship	2022
Clauve Outstanding Senior Award	2021
UNM Statistics Outstanding Undergraduate Student	2021
Mortar Board Senior Honor Society	2021
UNM Leadership and Involvement Award	2021

RESEARCH, TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

Research Assistant

UNM Center for Health and Social Policy	Sept 2023 - Present
UNM School of Medicine, Division of Community Behavioral Health	Aug 2023 - Present
UNM Center on Alcohol, Substance Use & Addictions (CASAA)	Aug 2022 - Aug 2023
UNM Department of Economics	Jan 22 - Aug 2023

Teaching Assistant Aug 2021 - May 2022

Economic Forecasting Methods
Consumer Economics
Macroeconomics Principles
Intermediate Microeconomics I

Introduction to Statistics and Econometrics

Undergraduate advising

Graduate mentor, El Puente Research Fellowship

Charles Aguirre	2023 - 2024
Jason Sanchez Hernandez	2023 - 2024
Daniela Millan	2023 - 2024
Mario Silva	2023 - 2024
Joel Miranda	2023 - 2024
Benjamin Lopez	2023 - 2024
Charlotte Auh	2022 - 2023
Laysha Chaparro	2022 - 2023
Diego Tenorio	2022 - 2023
Abel Molinar	2022 - 2023
Sebastian Romero	2022 - 2023
Austin McOwiti	2022 - 2023
Samantha Maestas	2021 - 2022
Bryan Baez	2021 - 2022
Antonio Villegas	2021 - 2022
Lizbeth Olivares	2021 - 2022

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

UNM Economics Graduate Student Association	Aug 2022 - Present
Vice President	
UNM Student Union Building Board	Aug 2022 - Aug 2023
Space Allocation Committee Chair	
UNM Graduate and Professional Student Association	Aug 2021 - May 2022
Elections Chair	
Associated Students of the UNM	May 2020 - May 2021
Vice President	

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Economic Association (AEA)	2022 - Present
American Society of Hispanic Economists (ASHE)	2022 - Present
National Association of Student Personnel Administrators	2022 - Present

COMPLETED PHD COURSES

ECON 542: Development Economics	Fall 2023
ECON 542: Topics in Environmental Resource Economics	Fall 2023
ECON 533: Industrial Organization	Fall 2023
ECON 581: International Development and Finance	Spring 2023
ECON 565: Topics in Public Economics	Spring 2023
ECON 427: Topics in Labor Economics	Spring 2023

ECON 585: Sustainable Development	Fall 2022
ECON 560: Public Economics	Fall 2022
ECON 510: Econometrics II	Fall 2022
ECON 513: Microeconomics II	Spring 2022
ECON 509: Econometrics I	Spring 2022
ECON 506: Macroeconomics I	Spring 2022
ECON 501: Microeconomics I	Fall 2021
ECON 504: Mathematical Tools and Economic Models I	Fall 2021
ECON 508: Statistics and Introduction to Econometrics	Fall 2021
ECON 595: Applied Economics Bootcamp	Summer 2021

Ph.D. Advisor:

Dr. Brady Horn
UNM Department of Economics
Center on Alcoholism, Substance Abuse, and Addictions (CASAA)
email: bhorn@unm.edu