10 March 2024

Jetson Leder-Luis
Assistant Professor
Questrom School of Business
Boston University

Sebastian Tello-Trillo
Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Economics
Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy
University of Virginia

Dear Dr. Leder-Luis and Dr. Tello-Trillo,

I wish to apply for the Mentoring Program on Aging and Health Economics Research at the National Bureau of Economic Research. I am a PhD student at the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, who is specializing in health policy. I have completed my program's coursework and am now in the dissertation stage.

My interest deals primarily with the intersection of public policy, health behavior, and health equity. I am keen on studying issues related to substance use policies and their equity-related outcomes. My work includes an examination of single state agencies' use of federal, state, and other government grants in addressing the opioid epidemic in the US; investigations about the effect of price- and non-price based interventions on smoking behavior both in the US and the Philippines; and studies on reproductive health policy and related factors. At present, I am involved as a research assistant in a NIAAA R01 grant that looks into managed care organizations and substance use-related outcomes. I am proficient in the use of Stata and SAS, and have working knowledge on the use of other statistical software.

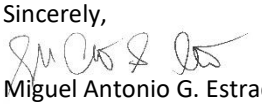
In applying to the NBER program, I hope to receive in-depth mentoring from renowned experts in the field toward a more nuanced understanding of relevant theories and their application, as well as of state-of-the-art empirical approaches. In addition, I hope to gain access to a wide range of resources to pursue my research and expand my scope to issues on aging and aging-related policies.

I am a Filipino national and have worked on several studies related to health policy in the Philippines. I continue to be in touch with Filipino scholars based in Philippine research institutions, collaborating on studies about smoking and reproductive health-related issues in the country. I received both my bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of the Philippines Diliman and have spent about 10 years in my home country working as a policy researcher, lecturer, and policy consultant before entering the PhD program.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may reach me through my email address *miguelantonio.estrada@uga.edu* or my phone number (706) 765-3454.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Miguel Antonio G. Estrada

Research Statement (Miguel Antonio G. Estrada)

I am a public policy researcher who is interested in health policy and its behavioral and equity implications. Policies can have both intended and unintended consequences. A policy's design gives rise to an incentive system that can distort people's behavioral response, resulting in outcomes that are far from what policymakers intended. This disconnect between a policy's aim and its outcome creates a challenge for policymaking. To an extent, unintended consequences can reinforce existing disparities. Different segments of the population can disproportionately benefit, as well as lose, from a policy.

My work on tobacco excise tax reform in the Philippines has been instrumental in deepening my understanding of public policy and health disparities. In 2012, the country introduced a landmark reform that significantly raised the excise tax on tobacco products and corrected a longstanding loophole that manufacturers used to shield their products from prior tax increases. Under the 2012 reform, a huge portion of revenues were earmarked for the country's national health insurance program, paying for insurance premiums of all low-income families classified as poor under a national means-tested program. The policy's intention was lofty – both in reducing the prevalence of smoking using taxes and, consequently, prices to discourage smokers; and in funding national health insurance. In fact, the reform was lauded globally. However, an underlying question remained. How exactly did people respond to the price increase? On the surface, a declining prevalence was an encouraging sign – testament to the power of price-based interventions. However, my co-authors and I wanted to understand whether smokers were homogeneous in their response.

In digging into the question using models and a nationally representative survey on smoking, we found the answer. The response was heterogeneous – giving rise to a dichotomy of smokers – a dichotomy that was determined heavily by the degree of addiction. On one hand, there were the potential quitters while on the other hand, there were those who were unlikely to quit. That people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds comprise a far greater share of those who were unlikely to quit surfaces the equity dimension of the issue. A natural follow up would be to ask, what then do we make of smokers who are unlikely to quit or be affected by the reform? What do we make of those who, instead of reducing consumption, would rather compensate through other cost-minimizing means? Does the policy treat this group as a mere *casualty* – one that is beyond the reach of any reform? While the case shows the inner workings of a policy, it also stresses how research can lead to a better understanding of intended and unintended consequences; and how findings can open new avenues for policy debate. In the case of my and my co-authors' work on the Philippines, these findings have opened a broader debate on the need for stronger emphasis on non-price based interventions to complement price-based ones. If the intention is to address population health, including of people who are disproportionately affected by the smoking epidemic, then, policymaking should go beyond tax reform.

Working with people and ideas, encompassing not only health taxes and addictive behaviors but also reproductive health and its broader implications, has cultivated in me a deeper appreciation for the importance of research in uncovering the inner workings of policies – its intended and unintended consequences, and the way that different groups of people respond to policies differently. As a graduate student, I understand and acknowledge that I have much to learn – from new methods and their applications to datasets that I can leverage to answer research questions. I see the Mentoring Program on Aging and Health Economics Research as a unique opportunity to be mentored by experts in the field, to gain a more nuanced understanding of theory that I can apply to do better research, to know and gain access to different datasets, to learn techniques to process these datasets, and to expand my scope to issues related to aging and aging-related policies. The mentoring program can provide resources, such as datasets and potentially, funding opportunities, that I, on my own, can never have access to. Moreover, I see this endeavor as a chance to broaden my network – to get to know scholars who work in related fields – scholars who I can discuss ideas and collaborate with, and who can enrich my perspective.

MIGUEL ANTONIO GARCIA ESTRADA

Curriculum Vitae, March 2024

101X Baldwin Hall, 355 South Jackson Street, Athens, Georgia 30602 — miguelantonio.estrada@uga.edu — (706) 765-3454 — https://spia.uga.edu/student/miguel-antonio-estrada

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration and Policy
Expected year of completion: 2025
University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA
Field: Health Policy (Policy Analysis, Substance Use, Health Behavior, Health Equity)
Dissertation Supervisor: Amanda J. Abraham, PhD

Master of Arts in Economics
Year of completion: 2021
University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines

Bachelor of Science in Economics, *cum laude*
Year of completion: 2011
University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines

EMPLOYMENT

Graduate Research Assistant
Years: 2021-present
Department of Public Administration & Policy
School of Public & International Affairs
University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA
Research projects: NIAAA R01 Grant on Medicaid managed care organizations and treatment of alcohol use disorder (PI: Amanda J. Abraham); federal and state policy, government grants, and programs on substance use; sugar-sweetened beverage taxes and employment

Policy Researcher
Years: 2016-2021
Congressional Policy & Budget Research Department
House of Representatives, Quezon City, Philippines
Research areas: Program evaluation, health insurance, health taxes, government budgeting and finance

Lecturer
Years: 2016-2019
University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, Quezon City, Philippines
Course taught: Undergraduate Health Economics & Policy

Policy Associate
Years: 2015-2016
World Health Organization, Manila, Philippines
Responsibilities: Development of the Philippine Global Health Agenda; technical assistance to the Department of Health on international health matters

University Researcher
Years: 2014-2015
Philippine Eye Research Institute
National Institutes of Health
University of the Philippines Manila, Philippines
Research project: National Vision Screening Program research and legislation

Legislative Staff
Years: 2011-2014
House of Representatives, Quezon City, Philippines
Responsibilities: Policy advice and technical assistance to a member of Congress

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Estrada, M.A.G., Abraham, A.J., Andrews, C.M., & Grogan, C.M. (2024). Statewide efforts to address the opioid epidemic: Results from a national survey of single state agencies. Journal of Substance Use and Addiction Treatment, 160, 209309. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.josat.2024.209309.

Cheng, K.J.G. & Estrada, M.A.G. (2022). A dichotomy of smokers in the Philippines following sin tax reform: Distinguishing potential quitters from those unlikely to quit. PloS One, 17(10), e0275840. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0275840.

Cheng, K.J.G., Lacaza, R.M., & Estrada, M.A.G. (2022). Varying Cost Minimization and Cessation Motivations in Response to Excise Tax Reform in the Philippines: A Cross-Sectional Study Using the 2015 Global Adult Tobacco Survey. Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health, 34(2–3), 293–297. https://doi.org/10.1177/10105395211065303.

Cheng, K.J.G. & Estrada, M.A.G. (2021). Cost-effectiveness analysis of the 2019 cigarette excise tax reform in the Philippines. Preventive Medicine, 145, 106431. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2021.106431.

Cheng, K.J.G. & Estrada, M.A.G. (2020). Price Elasticity of cigarette smoking demand in the Philippines after the 2012 Sin Tax Reform Act. Preventive Medicine, 134, 106042. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2020.106042.

Other Publications

Bangsal, N.V., Estipular, J.L. and Estrada, M.A.G. (2021). Briefing Notes for the DBCC Presentation: The Proposed FY2022 National Budget and the Medium-term Fiscal Program. Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Diaz-Manalo, P., Estrada, M.A.G., & Baluyot, D.D. (2021). Implications of the SC Ruling on the Mandanas-Garcia IRA Case. Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Estrada, M.A.G. and Gonzales, A.S. (2021). Promoting Sustainability through reform in the Pension System for Military and Uniformed Personnel. Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Health Technology Assessment Unit. (2020). Philippines Health Technology Assessment Methods Guide: Methodological standards in evaluation of health technologies in the Philippines. Manila: Department of Health. (contributor)

Bangsal, N.V., Pasagui, D., Estipular, J., Diaz-Manalo, P., Estrada, M.A.G., and Dumangas, J. (2021). A Fiscal Roadmap to Economic Recovery. Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Bangsal, N.V. and Estrada, M.A.G. (2020). The Role of Fiscal Decentralization in Reducing Poverty and Inequality: Empirical Evidence Using the Regional Authority Index. Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Diaz-Manalo, P. and Estrada, M.A.G. (2020). Analysis of the Regional Allocation of the FY 2021 National Budget. Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Estrada, M.A.G. (2020). Agency Budget Notes: The Judiciary (FY 2021). Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Bangsal, N.V., Sawali, R.R., Pasagui, D.J., Estipular, J., Diaz-Manalo, P. and Estrada, M.A.G. (2020). Briefing Notes for the DBCC Presentation on the FY 2021 National Budget. Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Miral, R.E.M., Bronce, R.F., Dumangas, J.I., Estrada, M.A.G. (Eds.). (2020). A Results-based Assessment of the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act. Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Aquino, M.P., Gamboa, D.G., and Gutierrez, E. (Eds.). (2020). Policy Imperatives: Moving Forward from the COVID-19 Crisis. Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department. (contributor)

Estrada, M.A.G. and Villaluz, C.A.V. (2020). Legislating Fiscal Responsibility. Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Diaz-Manalo, P. and Estrada, M.A.G. (2019). Analysis of the Regional Allocation of the 2020 National Budget. Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Miral, R.E.M., Sawali, R.R., Gutierrez, E., Diaz-Manalo, P., Bangsal, N.V. and Estrada, M.A.G. (2019). Briefing Notes for the DBCC Presentation on the Proposed 2020 National Budget. Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Estrada, M.A.G. (2019). Building Trust to Sustain Reforms: The FY2019 Fiscal Program. Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Estrada, M.A.G. (2018). Agency Budget Notes: The Judiciary (FY 2019). Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Estrada, M.A.G. and Bronce, R.F. (2018). Financing the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget. Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Estrada, M.A.G. (2018). Smoking and Health in the Philippines: Five Years After Sin Tax Reform. Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Estrada, M.A.G. (2017). Agency Budget Notes: Department of Health (FY 2018). Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Estrada, M.A.G. and Benipayo, D.P. (2017). Health and Federalism: Prospects for the Philippines. Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Estrada, M.A.G. and Benipayo, D.P. (2017). Comparing National Health Insurance in Three Southeast Asian Countries: Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department

Benipayo, D.P. and Estrada, M.A.G. (2017). Financial Sustainability of the National Health Insurance Program: A Review of the Actuarial Valuation Report 2014 of Philhealth. Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Estrada, M.A.G. (2016). Agency Budget Notes: State Universities and Colleges (FY 2017). Quezon City: Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Estrada, M.A.G. (2016). Agency Budget Notes: Commission on Higher Education (FY 2017). Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department.

Op-Ed and Other Writings

Estrada, M.A.G. (2015, October 1). The Filipino Story. The Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Estrada, M.A.G. (2008). Always Ready, Always There. Asian Disaster Preparedness News, 14.

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

Estrada, J.A.G., Estrada, M.A.G., Huang, N., & Bermudez, A.N. Bridging the gap towards sustainable development goals: Trends in socioeconomic inequalities in maternal health in the Philippines.

Estrada, J.A.G. & Estrada, M.A.G. An Assessment of the Moderating Effect of Social Support on Patient Perceived Unmet Health Care Needs Across Levels of Disability: Evidence Using a Nationwide Survey from the Philippines.

Estrada, M.A.G. Public-Place Smoking Bans and the Burden of Disease: Evidence from the American States.

Estrada, M.A.G., Cheng, K.J.G., & Lacaza, R.M. Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services and Women's Unmet Needs for Contraceptives: Evidence from a Landmark Law in the Philippines.

Lacaza, R.M. & Estrada, M.A.G. Using an Error Correction Model to Estimate the Effect of Tax-induced Price Increase on Cigarette and Alcohol Demand: The Case of the Philippines.

WORKING PAPERS

Cheng, K.J.G., Estrada, M.A.G., & Lacaza, R.M. How do Knowledge, Attitudes, and Perceptions Affect Cigarette Price's Influence on Smoking Intensity.

Estrada, M.A.G. Accountability and Effort of Agency Heads in the American States: Are Time Allocation Decisions Responsive to Constituent Influence

Estrada, M.A.G. Administrative Burden and Women's Unmet Needs for Contraception: Evidence from Community Health Worker Outreach in the Philippines.

Estrada, M.A.G. Globalization and the Narrowing of the Gender Gap in Labor Markets.

Estrada, M.A.G. & Lozano-Rojas, F. Impact of Soda Taxes on Employment Dynamics: The Case of Alameda County in California.

AWARDS AND HONORS

University of the Philippines International Publication Award (2020, 2021)
University of the Philippines Diliman

Alberto G. Roualdez, Jr. Outstanding Health Research Award (2017)
Awarded to the Philippine Eye Research Institute Vision Screeing Initiative (team member)
Philippine Council for Health Research and Development

University of the Philippines Presidential Scholarship (2009-2011, 2013-2014)
University of the Philippines Diliman

Youth Leaders for Knowledge and Development (2010)
Ateneo School of Government & the World Bank, Philippines

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

SPIA Travel Scholarship (2023)
School of Public and International Affairs, University of Georgia

Graduate School Summer Research Grant (2023)
Graduate School, University of Georgia

Graduate School Travel Grant (2023)
Graduate School, University of Georgia

Departmental Travel Grant (2022-2023)
Department of Public Administration & Policy, University of Georgia

INVITED TALKS

Linear Regression Analysis: A Crash Course for Policy Researchers (2022)
Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department, House of Representatives, Philippines

A Cashless Philippine Economy: Taking on a Government Perspective (2021)
University of the Philippines Baguio Economics Society

Mobilizing the Digital Economy under the New Normal (2021)
Polytechnic University of the Philippines Economics Research Society

Policy Process: The Need for Strategic Thinking (2018)
National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines Diliman

Musings: Equity, Equality, and the Development Riddle (2016)
Bureau of International Health Cooperation, Department of Health, Philippines

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers Presented

Impact of Soda Taxes on Employment Dynamics: The Case of Alameda County in California
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, USA (November 2023)

Statewide Efforts to Address the Drug Overdose Crisis: Results from a Survey of Single State Agencies
Addiction Health Services Research Conference, New York City, NY, USA (October 2023)

Administrative Burden and Women's Unmet Needs for Contraception: Evidence from Community Health Worker Outreach in the Philippines
Southeastern Conference for Public Administration Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, USA (September 2023)

Globalization and the Gender Gap in Labor Markets
Philippine Economics Society 59th Annual Meeting and Conference-*virtual* (November 2021)

Sin Tax Reform and Women's Smoking Behavior in the Philippines
Sizihwan International Conference on Asia-Pacific Studies, National Sun-Yat Sen University, Taiwan (November 2016)

Cereal Production and Agricultural Identity in Southeast Asia
Sizihwan International Conference on Asia-Pacific Studies, National Sun-Yat Sen University, Taiwan (November 2015)

Sin Tax Reform and Smoking Behavior in the Philippines
Singapore Economic Review Conference, Mandarin Orchard Hotel, Singapore (August 2015)

Posters Presented

Administrative Burden and Women's Unmet Needs for Contraception: Evidence from Community Health Worker Outreach in the Philippines
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Atlanta, GA, USA (November 2023)

Globalization and the Narrowing of the Gender Gap in Labor Markets
Population Association of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, USA (April 2023)

The Reproductive Health Law and Unmet Needs for Contraception among Filipino Women
Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN, USA (September 2022)

How do Knowledge, Attitudes, and Perceptions Affect Cigarette Price's Influence on Smoking Intensity
Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, USA (April 2022)

Discussant

Political and Economic Development Session ***(Chair and discussant)***
Sizihwan International Conference on Asia-Pacific Studies, National Sun-Yat Sen University, Taiwan (November 2016)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Course Taught

AY 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19
Health Economics & Policy (Undergraduate-level course)
University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, Quezon City, Philippines

Guest Lectures

Fall 2023
PADP 8670. Policy Analysis I (Graduate-level course)
Topic: Uncertainty in Choice and Policy Formation
Department of Public Administration & Policy, School of Public & International Affairs
University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA

PADP 7110. Research Methods (Graduate-level course)
Topic: Non-experimental Design
Department of Public Administration & Policy, School of Public & International Affairs
University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Reviewer: *Philippine Journal of Health Research and Development*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Professional Organizations
American Public Health Association, American Society of Health Economists, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, National Research Council of the Philippines, Philippine Economics Society, Population Association of America

PHD COURSES COMPLETED

HPAM 7010. *Introduction to Health Policy & Management*

HPRB 7470. *Program Evaluation in Health Promotion and Health Education*

HPRB 7920. *Health Behavior*

PADP 6910. *Public Administration & Democracy*

PADP 8110. *The Logic of Social Inquiry*

PADP 8120. *Data Analysis & Statistical Inference*

PADP 8130. *Linear Statistical Models & Associated Techniques*

PADP 8140. *Advanced Topics in Statistical Modelling*

PADP 8610. *Economics of Health Policy*

PADP 8620. *Policy Process*

PADP 8710. *Ideas & Issues in Public Administration*

PADP 8830. *Doctoral Seminar in Public Budgeting*

PADP 9200. *Independent Study: Substance Use Policies in the US*