Beatriz Rache

Ph.D. Student, Global Economics and Management

UCLA Anderson School of Management

110 Westwood Plaza – Los Angeles, CA – 90095

beatriz.rache.phd@anderson.ucla.edu — (310) 696-3055

National Bureau of Economic Research

1050 Massachusetts Avenue

Cambridge, MA 02138

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to apply for the 2025 NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp, motivated by my research interests in technological innovation's impact on labor markets and human capital development.

My doctoral research at UCLA Anderson examines how platform-based work affects educational choices and professional trajectories, particularly among young workers in Brazil. This work intersects with the boot camp's focus on innovation's role in economic growth, labor market dynamics, and skill formation.

My recommendation letter will be provided by Prof. Romain Wacziarg, whose contact information is as follows:

Romain Wacziarg

Professor of Economics, Hans Hufschmid Chair in Management

UCLA Anderson School of Management

110 Westwood Plaza – Los Angeles, CA – 90095

wacziarg@ucla.edu — (310) 825-4507

I also enclose my CV, a list of completed PhD courses, and a one-page essay describing my research agenda.

Sincerely,

Beatriz Rache

BEATRIZ RACHE

beatrizrache.com | beatriz.rache.phd@anderson.ucla.edu

Updated January 2025

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Student, UCLA Anderson School of Management 2022-present
Area: Global Economics and Management

M.A. in Economics, Columbia University 2016-2017

B.A. in Economics, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio) 2012-2015
Senior Thesis: "Returns to Higher Education in Brazil", advised by C. Ferraz and K. Muralidharan (UCSD)

RESEARCH

Publications

B. Rache, R. Rocha, L. A. Medeiros, L. M. Okada, G. Ferrari, H. Zeng, A. Bigoni, M. P. Curado, C. M. Azeredo, and L. F. M. Rezende. Transition towards cancer mortality predominance over cardiovascular disease mortality in Brazil, 2000–2019: a population-based study. *The Lancet Regional Health - Americas*, 39:100904, 2024

L F Fontes, M Mrejen, B Rache, and R Rocha. Economic Distress and Children's Mental Health: Evidence from the Brazilian High-Risk Cohort Study for Mental Conditions. *The Economic Journal*, 134(660):1701–1718, December 2023

L.S.L. Bastos, S. Aguilar, B. Rache, P. Maçaira, F. Baião, J. Cerbino-Neto, R. Rocha, S. Hamacher, O.T. Ranzani, and F.A. Bozza. Primary healthcare protects vulnerable populations from inequity in COVID-19 vaccination: An ecological analysis of nationwide data from Brazil. *Lancet Regional Health - Americas*, 14, 2022

M.C. Castro, S. Kim, L. Barberia, A.F. Ribeiro, S. Gurzenda, K.B. Ribeiro, E. Abbott, J. Blossom, B. Rache, and B.H. Singer. Spatiotemporal pattern of COVID-19 spread in Brazil. *Science*, 372, 2021

R. Rocha, R. Atun, A. Massuda, B. Rache, P. Spinola, L. Nunes, M. Lago, and M.C. Castro. Effect of socioeconomic inequalities and vulnerabilities on health-system preparedness and response to COVID-19 in Brazil: a comprehensive analysis. *The Lancet Global Health*, 9, 2021

Work in Progress

Why is the College Premium Falling? The Role of Composition (with Tomas Guanziroli and Ariadna Jou)

Delivering Change: The Educational and Labor Market Effects of Gig Work

PRESENTATIONS

All-UC Demography Conference (poster presentation) at UC Irvine 2023

SUMMER SCHOOLS

RIDGE Summer School in Economics 2023
Stone Center Summer Institute on Economic Inequality at UC Berkeley 2023

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant for Managerial Economics (MBA Level, UCLA Anderson) Winter 2024, Fall 2024
Teaching Assistant for Economic Evaluation for Social Projects (Extension course, Itaú Social) 2019
Teaching Assistant for Statistics (Undergraduate Level, PUC-Rio) 2013

AFFILIATIONS

Student Affiliate, California Center for Population Research 2023-present

RESEARCH GRANTS

Center for Global Management, Anderson School of Management 2024-2025

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

Clémence Tricaud, Melanie Wasserman, Brian Wheaton — UCLA Anderson
Robert Fairlie — UCLA Luskin

OTHER SKILLS

Languages: Portuguese (native), English (fluent), Spanish (advanced).
Software: R (advanced), Stata (advanced), SQL (advanced), Microsoft Excel (advanced).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Researcher — 2019-2022
Instituto de Estudos para Políticas de Saúde (IEPS) — *São Paulo, Brazil*

Business Research Associate — 2017-2019
JPMorgan Chase Institute — *Washington, DC*

Junior Economist — 2014-2015
Gavea Investments — *Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

Research Assistant — 2014
Climate Policy Initiative — *Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

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List of PhD Courses

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

Fall 2022

Microeconomic Theory	Prof. Jay Lu (UCLA Econ)
Macroeconomics: Dynamics & Growth Theory	Prof. Lee Ohanian (UCLA Econ)
Probability, Statistics, & Computational Methods	Prof. Peter Rossi (UCLA Anderson)

Winter 2023

Noncooperative Game Theory	Prof. Moritz Meyer-ter-Vehn (UCLA Econ)
Macroeconomics: Business Cycles	Prof. Pierre-Olivier Weill and Prof. Andrew Atkeson (UCLA Econ)
Theory and Application of Regression Analysis	Prof. Elisabeth Honka (UCLA Anderson)

Spring 2023

Game Theory with Asymmetric Information	Prof. Simon Board (UCLA Econ)
Macroeconomics: Topics in Macroeconomics	Prof. Ariel Burstein and Prof. Oleg Itskhoki (UCLA Econ)
Time Series Analysis	Prof. Lars Lochstoer (UCLA Anderson)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

Fall 2023

Labor Economics I	Prof. Maurizio Mazzocco (UCLA Econ)
Economic History of Western Europe	Prof. Michela Giorcelli (UCLA Econ)
Topics in Labor Economics	Prof. Adriana Lleras-Muney (UCLA Econ)

Winter 2024

Labor Economics II	Prof. Daniel Haanwinckel (UCLA Econ)
Topics in Labor Economics	Prof. Felipe Goncalves (UCLA Econ)
Development Economics	Prof. Natalie Bau (UCLA Econ)

Spring 2024

U.S. Labor Markets and Public Programs since 1940	Prof. Martha Bailey (UCLA Econ)
Mathematical Theory in Industrial Organization	Prof. Martin Hackmann (UCLA Econ)
Political Economy of Economic Development	Prof. Paola Giuliano (UCLA Anderson)

Personal Statement

Beatriz Rache*

Last version: February 7, 2025

Technological innovations change employment opportunities and potentially alter traditional paths of human capital accumulation. These labor market transformations raise fundamental questions about the optimal structure and content of education systems. In the working paper "**Why is the College Premium Falling? The Role of Composition**" (with Ariadna Jou and Tomás Guanziroli), we have documented how expanding university supply and access seems to have diminished the college premium in Brazil. We examine whether declining college premia might mask increasing returns to skill. This analysis has important implications for education policy, suggesting the need to rethink not just access to higher education, but also its form and content.

My current research investigates how platform-based delivery work impacts skill accumulation and long-term professional trajectories, particularly among vulnerable populations. Using the staggered entry of delivery platforms across Brazilian municipalities, I measure how low-skill gig work availability affects educational choices and career paths. This research is crucial for understanding whether immediate platform work income might discourage further education among young workers, potentially limiting their economic mobility.

Looking ahead, I plan to expand this research agenda to examine how education systems can better prepare workers for a labor market characterized by frequent transitions and rapid skill obsolescence. Technological change, including automation and platform-mediated work, may call for more flexible educational pathways that facilitate lifelong learning. This includes investigating the role of vocational education - not just in traditional trades, but also in more technological fields such as software engineering. Through this research agenda, I aim to investigate the impact of technological progress and new forms of work on educational and professional trajectories, with particular attention to the crucial role of education in improving social mobility amid these transformations.

Beyond my primary focus on education and labor markets, I have previously worked extensively on health. For example, in the paper "**Economic Distress and Children's Mental Health: Evidence from the Brazilian High-Risk Cohort Study for Mental Conditions**" (with Luiz Fontes, Matias Mrejen, and Rudi Rocha, Economic Journal, 2024), we analyzed the effect of parental job loss on children's mental health.

Attending the NBER Summer Institute Innovation Research Boot Camp and the Innovation Policy meeting will be an invaluable opportunity to engage with researchers at the frontier of innovation research. I am particularly interested in Professor Ganguli's work on how elite institutions shape student trajectories. Overall, the boot camp will better equip me to conduct policy-relevant research on technological transformation's impact on economic opportunity, advancing my goal of understanding how educational systems can best prepare workers inclusively.

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I am happy to strongly recommend Beatriz Rache for the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2025, and to do so enthusiastically and without reservations. Beatriz is a third year PhD student at the UCLA Anderson School of Management, and one of our brightest stars. I am one of her thesis advisors. I have known her since she joined our PhD program in 2022. She is a very promising applied microeconomist with keen interests in labor and health economics. She has already published several papers in these fields including a paper published in The Economic Journal and several other papers in outstanding scientific outlets such as Science and The Lancet. This is a very accomplished record of published work, unusual for a scholar at such an early stage of her academic career. Based on this record and her promise, I am confident that Beatriz will be a star on the job market after she graduates from our program in a couple of years. She is comparable to the very best students our program has ever produced.

Beatriz' main thesis paper is on the rise of the gig economy, and its effect on education. The context is that of Brazil - which is original because most research on the gig economy concerns high-income countries. Beatriz looks at the effect of gig work on youth education and labor market outcomes, exploiting the staggered introduction of a food delivery platform, iFood, across Brazilian municipalities between 2016 and 2024. The analysis is superbly executed. This is a very original and promising project that allows Beatriz to showcase her considerable skills in empirical economics. Beyond research, Beatriz is also very active as a member of our small but very dynamic research unit. She is an outstanding teaching assistant in our main core class in managerial economics (advanced intermediate micro and price theory), attends and participates actively in our workshops and seminars regularly, and presents her own research about once per quarter. In all these tasks, she ranks at the very top of our PhD students, and I am sure that she would also rank at the very top of PhD students any other institution in every aspect of academic work.

To conclude, Beatriz Rache is an outstanding economist with a bright future ahead of her. I recommend her enthusiastically for admission to the 2025 University of Chicago Price Theory Summer camp.

Romain Wacziarg

Hans Hufschmid Chair in Management

Managing Editor, JEEA<https://academic.oup.com/jeea>

http://wacziarg.bol.ucla.edu<http://wacziarg.bol.ucla.edu/>