DIEGO SEBASTIÁN RAMÍREZ RAMÍREZ

diezebram@gmail.com — +1 (202) 373-2047

EDUCATION

Ph.D in Public Policy Exp. 2029
Northeastern University. Boston, Massachusetts.

M.Sc Applied Quantitative Methods and Social Analysis Apr. 2026
Northeastern University. Boston, Massachusetts.

M.Sc. in Economics Oct. 2022
Universidad del Rosario. Bogotá, Colombia.

B.A. in Psychology Aug. 2017
Universidad Nacional de Colombia. Bogotá, Colombia.

RELEVANT PH.D. COURSEWORK

Completed coursework (Graduate GPA: 3.956): Health Policy and Politics; Ecological Economics; Topics in Labor Economics; Machine Learning; Labor Market Analysis; Education Policy in the U.S.; Cultural Politics of Sport; Intro Computational Statistics; Big Data for Cities; Qualitative Research Design; Seminar on Policy Theory; Techniques of Program Evaluation; Quantitative Analysis; Research Methods in Social Science; Practicum.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Development Economics – Behavioral Economics – Gender Economics – Economics of the Education

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

The World Bank - Development Research Group Jan. 2023 — Jun. 2024
Consultant Washington, United States

Provided research assistantship for the project Understanding preferences for childcare attributes from local caregivers. In addition, I worked as the data analyst for the SUNSET project in El Salvador; this project wants to study the effect of additional reading and writing training in teachers on their own wellness and student academic outcomes.

InterAmerican Development Bank Jul. 2022 — Feb 2023
Consultant Bogotá, Colombia

I conducted an impact evaluation to understand the effect of the migration shock of Venezuelans on fiscal spending in Colombian municipalities (I was in charge of data analysis and data cleaning). In addition, I performed an impact evaluation on the effect of implementing an electronic voucher over tax reported for Brazilian firms (In charge of data analysis and data cleaning). Finally, I worked on a literature review and analysis for a research project about the effects of nudges on civil servants in Argentina.

Princeton University Sept. 2022 — Dec. 2022
Research Assistant Bogotá, Colombia

Provided research assistantship for the project Study of Preferences (Moral Wiggle Room) under the supervision of Mariana Blanco, Francesco Bogliacino and Pietro Ortoleva.

International Organization for Migration Jun. 2022 — Aug. 2022
Research Professional Bogotá, Colombia

Supported the processing and analysis of digital files associated with the Comisión de la Verdad's primary sources of information.

Alliance for formal and inclusive economy — Science Ministry Sep. 2021 — May. 2022
Research Coordinator (REBEL) Bogotá, Colombia

Universidad del Rosario — Graduate School of Economics Jan. 2018 — Sept. 2021
Research Assistant — Rosario Experimental and Behavioral Economics Lab (REBEL) Bogotá, Colombia

Provided research assistance on the following papers:

- Aycinena, D., and Bogliacino, F "Measuring Social Norms " *Working Paper.*
- Aycinena, D., and Blanco, M "COVID-19 and Trust " *Working paper.*

– Aycinena, D; Renschtler, L "Social norms and dishonesty across societies" *PNAS*.
– Aycinena, D; Galarza, F "Social Interactions and Attitudes in a High Immigration Context"" *Working paper*.
– Aycinena, D., and Blanco, M "Preferencias Intertemporales y de Riesgo de los Vinculados al Programa Hoy y Mañana BEPS " *Working paper*.

WORKING PAPER

- Aycinena, D., Lopez, S., and Ramírez, S ' The tired and the Blind. The effect of Cognitive Load on Social Norms" Click here

- Modestino, A., Golestani, A., Turchan, B., Struhl, B., Braga, A., & Ramírez, S. (2025). Nothing Stops a Bullet like a Job? The Long-Term Impact of Summer Youth Employment Programs on Violent Crime. Working paper.Click here

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Nothing Stops a Bullet like a Job? The Long-Term Impact of Summer Youth Employment Programs on Violent Crime" NBER Summer Institute – Cambridge, MA , Jul 2026.

"Risky Choice and Time Restrictions. A Eye-Tracker Study." BEEC – Bogota Experimental Economics Conference , Jan 2019.

TEACHING AND OTHER EXPERIENCE

Universidad del Rosario Jan. 2020 — May. 2020
Teaching Assistant — Economic and Financial Analysis Tools Bogotá, Colombia

Universidad del Rosario Jul. 2019 — Dec. 2020
Teaching Assistant — Introduction to the Economic Science Bogotá, Colombia

Universidad Nacional de Colombia Fall 2014, Fall 2016
Undergraduate Teaching Assistant — Learning; Experimental Psychology Bogotá, Colombia

ACADEMIC DISTINCTIONS

- **Distinction for a top Saber Pro score** (national standardized test of higher education) 2016
- **Scholarship for undergraduate studies** at Universidad Nacional de Colombia 2012
- **Young Researcher Fellowship** at Universidad del Rosario 2018

ADDITIONAL COURSES

Summer School in Experimental Methods Jul 2018
Nuffield College and Universidad de Santiago de Chile
Summer School Behavioral Game Theory Jun 2020
University of East Anglia
Experimental Economics Summer School in Macroeconomics Jun 2021
Technische Universität Berlin
Course in Behavioral Environmental Economics Jun 2021
Uppsala University
Summer School on Multidimensional Poverty Measurement and Analysis Jun 2023
Oxford University - OPHI
Real Analysis for Economics Jul 2023
Universidad del Rosario 4.6 / 5
IAFFE Feminist Economics School Jul 2024
Alliance Summer School Jun 2025
LSE - Queer Conference Jun 2025

SKILLS

Programming: Stata, Python, R, LaTeX, — Advanced Matlab, — Basic

Languages: Spanish (Native) — English (Fluent) — Italian (Intermediate)

Research Tools: Otree – Pupil – Inquisit – Zotero – Ztree – SurveyCO

REFERENCES

Diego Aycinena
Ph.D. in Economics, George Mason University
Associate Professor of Practice
University of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania, PA, USA
✉ diego.aycinena@gmail.com

Shantanu Khanna
Ph.D. in Economics, University of California, Irvine
Assistant Professor
Northeastern University
Boston, MA, United States
✉ s.khanna@northeastern.edu

Alicia Sasser Modestino
Ph.D. in Economics, Harvard University
Associate Professor, Department of Economics
Northeastern University
Boston, MA, USA
✉ a.modestino@northeastern.edu

Lelys Dinarte
Ph.D. Economics, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile
Research Economist, The World Bank
Human Development Team
Washington, DC, USA
✉ ldinartediaz@worldbank.org

Statement of Interest

NBER Mentoring Program on Aging and Health Economics Research

My research sits at the intersection of health economics, development economics, and social policy, with a particular focus on how violence, institutional fragility, and weak social protection systems shape mental health and wellbeing over the life course in Latin America. As a Ph.D. student in Public Policy at Northeastern University, I use administrative data and quasi-experimental methods to study vulnerable populations that are often difficult to observe through traditional surveys.

My interest in aging and health economics emerged through work on Colombia's pension system, particularly research related to *Beneficios Económicos Periódicos* (BEPS), a program designed for individuals unlikely to receive a formal pension because of labor informality. I was involved in the design and analysis of a field experiment studying preferences and risky behavior among economically vulnerable populations, which deepened my interest in how retirement insecurity, limited pension access, and cumulative economic vulnerability shape mental health and healthcare utilization among older adults in developing countries.

I am also developing research on mental health and conflict exposure in Colombia using novel administrative datasets. One ongoing project studies the mental health effects of Colombia's 2016 peace agreement with the FARC using a municipality-level panel from 2009–2020 and a difference-in-differences design based on historical FARC territorial presence and PDET designation. The project finds meaningful changes in mood disorders, substance-use diagnoses, and suicide mortality following the peace agreement, highlighting how reductions in violence and improvements in healthcare access can generate measurable mental health gains in historically marginalized territories.

The NBER Mentoring Program would be especially valuable because I am working to consolidate these interests into a coherent dissertation agenda within health and aging economics. I would particularly benefit from mentorship on identifying promising research questions, strengthening the connection between my work and the broader aging and health literature, and learning more about administrative health datasets and empirical strategies commonly used in the field. I am especially interested in research on mental health, retirement insecurity, healthcare access, and the long-term consequences of poverty and violence in aging populations.

My previous research experiences have provided strong training in policy evaluation and causal inference methods. However, I have had relatively limited direct exposure to scholars specifically working in aging and health economics, which is why the opportunity to engage with faculty and peers through this program would be particularly meaningful for my intellectual development. I hope to contribute perspectives from Latin America and conflict-affected settings while learning how to better position my work within broader debates in health and aging economics.

Diego Sebastián Ramírez Ramírez
Ph.D. Student in Public Policy
Northeastern University