

Victor David Bernal Pavas

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Education

University of Houston, Houston, TX

August 2022–Present

Ph.D. in Economics, expected 2027

Ph.D. Candidate

Universidad EAFIT, Medellín, Colombia

2019–2020

M.Sc. in Economics

- Thesis: *Better or Worse Job Accessibility? Understanding Changes in Spatial Mismatch at the Intra-urban Level in Medellín.*
- Graduated with honors due to the thesis.

Universidad de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia

2012–2017

Bachelor's Degree in Economics

- Undergraduate thesis: *Analysis of Liquid Fuels' Prices Stabilization Policies (Gasoline and ACPM) in Colombia. Period 2009–2016.*
- Graduated with honors.

Research Interests

Urban Economics, Transportation Economics, Public Economics, Environmental Economics, Applied Microeconomics.

Publications

Bernal, D., García, A., and Pérez, J. P. "Better or Worse Job Accessibility? Understanding Changes in Spatial Mismatch: Evidence from Medellín, Colombia." *Journal of Transport Geography*, 2025.

Working Papers

Remote Work and Optimal Congestion Pricing: Evidence from the COVID-19 Demand Shock

Job Market Paper

From Conflict to Human Capital? Evidence from Colombias Peace Process

Working Paper

The Effect of Policy Variation on Urban Density: The Consequences of Crossed Borders for Cities

With Steven Craig, Edward Hoang, and Steven Bond-Smith.

Teaching Experience

University of Houston, Houston, TX

August 2022–Present

Instructor

- Principles of Microeconomics

Teaching Assistant

- Economics Internship

- Graduate Urban Economics
- History of Economic Doctrine
- Introduction to Econometrics
- Intermediate Microeconomics

Research and Professional Experience

Consultant, Inter-American Development Bank December 2021–August 2022

- Supported the preparation of knowledge products, studies, and reports related to IDB Invest.
- Collected, prepared, and analyzed data.
- Estimated econometric models and applied technical tools for data analysis, including machine learning and geographic information systems.
- Prepared presentations, summaries, and reports.

Research Assistant, Johns Hopkins University July 2021–July 2022

- Research assistant for Professors Luis Quintero, Carey Business School, Johns Hopkins University, and Guillermo Sinisterra, Accounting Department, Universidad Javeriana, for the paper *The Long and Winding Roads: Roads, Inequality, and Growth in Colombia*.
- Prepared and managed databases, estimated econometric models using R and Stata, prepared presentations for tracking meetings, and wrote reports.

Research Assistant, Harvard Business School January 2021–February 2022

- Research assistant for Professor Jorge Tamayo.
- Prepared and managed spatial data, analyzed data using ArcGIS and Python, estimated econometric models using R, prepared presentations for tracking meetings, and wrote reports.

External Consultant, Banco de México October 2020–April 2021

- Research assistant for Jorge Pérez.
- Analyzed data using Stata, solved structural models with Python, and wrote reports.
- Downloaded, updated, and prepared large volumes of data using Stata and Wget.

Research Assistant, Universidad EAFIT January 2019–July 2020

- Prepared and managed detailed databases, analyzed data, performed econometric estimations, worked with georeferenced data, and wrote reports.

Presentations and Summer Schools

- Participant, Price Theory Summer Camp, University of Chicago, June 2025.
- “Better or Worse Job Accessibility? Understanding Changes in Spatial Mismatch at the Intra-urban Level in Medellín.” Latin American Economic Association, LACEA, November 2023.
- “Better or Worse Job Accessibility? Understanding Changes in Spatial Mismatch at the Intra-urban Level in Medellín.” European Regional Science Association, ERSA, online conference “Spatial Challenges for the New World,” August 26, 2020.

Awards and Honors

- Master's thesis awarded academic distinction by Universidad EAFIT.
- Bachelor's thesis awarded academic distinction by Universidad de Antioquia.
- The undergraduate thesis contributed to public discussion on gasoline pricing and taxation policy in Colombia. In 2019, the Constitutional Court declared the taxable base for the gasoline surcharge tax unconstitutional.

Skills

Software: Stata, R, ArcGIS, Python, EViews, MATLAB, Dynare, L^AT_EX, Microsoft Office.

Languages: Spanish, native; English, fluent; French, intermediate.

References

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