

Marcos Vera-Hernández

E-mail:m.vera@ucl.ac.uk

T. +44(0)207 679 1007

M. +44(0)779 156 1015

Nationality: Spanish

Professional Activity

- Oct 2019- Professor of Economics
Economics Department. University College London
- Oct 2014-Sept 2019 Associate Professor
Economics Department. University College London
- Oct 2012-Sept 2014 Senior Lecturer
Economics Department. University College London
- Sep 2005-Sept 2012 Lecturer
Economics Department. University College London
- Oct 2004-Sept 2005 Assistant Professor. Economics Department
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
- Feb 2002-Oct 2004 Research Economist. The Institute for Fiscal Studies (London)
- Oct 2001-Oct 2003 Marie Curie Post Doctoral Research Fellow. University College London

Other Affiliations

Affiliate. Rural Education Action Program (Stanford)

Co-Founder. Collaboration for Health System Improvement and Impact Evaluation in India

Research Fellow. Institute for Fiscal Studies (London)

Education

- June 2001 Ph.D. in Economics. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.
Title “Microeconometrics and asymmetric information. Applications to health care utilisation”.

Research Fields

Health Economics and Applied Microeconomics.

Awards

2013 Royal Economic Society Prize for my article (co-authored with P. Olivella) “Testing for Asymmetric Information in the Private Health Insurance Market” published in the Economic Journal.

First prize of the Inter American Award for Research on Social Security 2011 for my article (co-authored with D. Pinto and G. Miller): “Risk Protection, Service Use, and Health Outcomes under Colombia's Health Insurance Program for the Poor.”

International Member of the Research Advisory Board of the Australian Centre for Economic Research on Health (ACERH) for 2009 and 2010. ACERH is Australia's first inter-university centre for health economics. It comprises research staff and students at three of Australia's research-intensive (Group of Eight) universities: The Australian National University, the University of Queensland and the University of Western Australia.

My article “Competition among Differentiated Health Plans under Adverse Selection” was awarded, by the Spanish Health Economics Association, best article in health economics by a Spanish researcher or researcher based in Spain in 2007.

Visiting Fellow of the British Academy 2005.

Second Prize of Young Researchers Competition in Health Economics, Second World Conference of the International Health Economics Association, Rotterdam 1999 by my paper “Duplicate Coverage and Demand for Health Care”.

Work in Progress

“Using Two-Part Contracts to Identify Complementarities Across Tasks: An Application to UK Family Doctors” (joint with P Rodríguez-Lesmes)

“Illness Severity and Public-Private Use of Health Services in Europe” (joint with P Olivella)

“Health Investments and Pension Wealth in Chile” (joint with G Miller and N Valdes)

“Consumer Cost-Sharing, Health Care Use, and Health Outcomes: Evidence from Colombian Administrative Data” (joint with Giancarlo Buitrago and G Miller)

“Opioids over-prescription and Hospital Waiting Lists in the UK” (joint with G Stoye)

“Effects of a Breastfeeding Encouraging Intervention on School Outcomes: a Diff-in-diff Approach” (joint with M Cardoso and E Fitzsimons)

“Building Social Capital: Poor Impacts or Poor Measurements. Evidence from a Program to Improve Child Health” (joint with E Fitzsimons, P Rodríguez, D Stein, S Yoshida)

“Impact of Training Pre-school Teachers in Jamaica: Evidence from the Irie Classroom Toolbox” (joint with H Baker-Henningham, H Alderman, S Walker)

“Work pays: different benefits of a workfare program in Colombia” (joint with A Alik-Lagrange, O Attanasio, C Meghir, S Polanía-Reyes)

“What Alleviates Concerns on Multitasking: the Role of Resources” (joint with G Miller and S Sylvia)

“Going Beyond Simple Sample Size Calculations: A Practitioner's Guide” (joint with B McConnell). IFS WP 15/17

“Monetary and Non-Monetary Retention Bonuses for Health Staff in Nigeria” (joint with M Holmlund, P Jervis, and P Rosa-Dias)

Articles under revision

“Breastfeeding and Child Development” (joint with E. Fitzsimons). Revise and Resubmit at American Economic Journal: Applied Economics

“Testing Insurance Against Illness under Health Dependent Utility Function” (joint with Aida Galiano)

Journal Articles

“Spillovers of Community-Based Health Interventions on Consumption Smoothing” (joint with B Malde). Economic Development and Cultural Change. Forthcoming

“Different Strokes for Different Folks: Experimental Evidence on the Effectiveness of Input and Output Incentive Contracts for Health Care Providers with Varying Skills” (joint with M Mohanan, Katherine Donato, Grant Miller, Yulya Truskinovsky). American Economic Journal: Applied Economics. Forthcoming

“The Irie Classroom Toolbox: A cluster-randomised trial of a universal violence prevention programme in Jamaican preschools”, (joint with Baker-Henningham, H, Bowers, M, Francis, T, & Walker, S) The Lancet Global Health. Forthcoming

“Can Bureaucrats Really Be Paid Like CEOs? School Administrator Incentives for Anemia Reduction in Rural China” (joint with L Renfu, G Miller, S Sylvia, S Rozelle) Journal of The European Economic Association 18(1), February 2020: 165-20

“Group Size and the Efficiency of Informal Risk Sharing” (joint with E Fitzsimons and B Malde). The Economic Journal (Features) 2018 July 128(612): F575-F608

“The Effects of the Transition from Home-based Childcare to Childcare Centers on Children's Health and Development in Colombia” (joint with R Bernal, O Attanasio, X Pena). in Early Childhood Research Quarterly (47), 2nd Quarter 2019: 418-431

“Personality Traits and Performance Contracts: Evidence from a Field Experiment among Maternity Care Providers in India” (joint with K Donato, G Miller, M Mohanan, Y Truskinovsky). The American Economic Review (Papers and Proceedings) 2017 May 107(5):506-10.

Article in the top 5% of the Altmetric Impact Score (includes social media)

“Family networks and infant health promotion: a mixed-methods evaluation from a cluster randomised controlled trial in rural Malawi.” (joint with B Malde, M Scott, C King, T Phiri, H Chapota, E Kainja. BMJ Open 2018 8(6), e019380.

“Evaluation of a social franchising and telemedicine programme and the care provided for childhood diarrhoea and pneumonia, Bihar, India” (joint with M Mohanan, S Giardili, V Das et al). Bulletin of the World Health Organisation 2017 March 95(5):343-352E

“Providers' knowledge of diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis using vignettes: evidence from rural Bihar, India” (joint with M Mohanan, JD Goldhaber-Fiebert, S Giardili). BMJ Global Health 2016 Dec. 1(4): e000155

“Public hospital spending in England: evidence from National Health Service administrative records” (joint with E Kelly and G Stoye). Fiscal Studies 2016 Sept. (37): 433-59. Special issue on Health Care, editor: E. French

“Nutrition, information and household behavior. Experimental Evidence from Malawi” (joint with E Fitzsimons, B Malde, A Mesnard). Journal of Development Economics. 2016 September (122): 113–126

“Breast feeding and the weekend effect: an observational study” (joint with E Fitzsimons) BMJ Open. 2016 July 1;6(7):e010016.

“Irie Classroom Toolbox: a study protocol for a cluster-randomised trial of a universal violence prevention programme in Jamaican preschools” (joint with H Baker-Henningham, H Alderman, S Walker) BMJ Open. 2016 May 1;6(5):e012166.

“Effect of A Large-Scale Social Franchising and Telemedicine Program on Childhood Diarrhea and Pneumonia Outcomes in India” (joint with M Mohanan, K S Babiarz, J D Goldhaber-Fiebert, and G Miller) Health Affairs 2016 October 35(10):1800-1809.

Top 10 articles of the year (Editors' choice)

Article in the top 5% of the Altmetric Impact Score (includes social media)

“The Know-Do Gap in Quality of Health Care for Childhood Diarrhea and Pneumonia in Rural India” (joint with M Mohanan, V Das, et al) JAMA Pediatrics. 2015 Apr 1;169(4):349–57.

Article in the top 5% of the Altmetric Impact Score (includes social media)

“Should Cash Transfers Be Conditional? Conditionality, Preventive Care, and Health Outcomes” (joint with O Attanasio and V Oppedisano)
American Economic Journal: Applied Economics 2015, April, 7(2):35-52.

“Integrating a Parenting Intervention With Routine Primary Health Care: A Cluster Randomized Trial” (joint with S Chang, S Grantham-McGregor, C Powell, F López-Boo, H Baker-Henningham, S Walker) Pediatrics 136(2), pp.1–9.

“Risk Protection, Service Use, and Health Outcomes under Colombia's Health Insurance Program for the Poor” American Economic Journal: Applied Economics 5 (4), 2013, pp. 61–91. (joint with G. Miller and D. Pinto)

“Exploiting Subjective Information to Understand Impoverished Children's Use of Health Care” The Journal of Health Economics 32(6), 2013, pp. 1194–1204. (joint with B. Álvarez)

“Community Nurseries and the Nutritional Status of Poor Children. Evidence from Colombia” The Economic Journal 123 (571), 2013, pp. 1025–1058 (joint with O. Attanasio & V. di Maro)

“Testing for Asymmetric Information in the Private Health Insurance Market”. The Economic Journal 123 (567), 2013, pp. 96-130 (joint with Pau Olivella)

“Early Childhood Stimulation With Stunted Children Benefits Adult Competence and Reduces Violent Behavior” Pediatrics 127 (5), 2011, pp. 849-857 (joint with S. Walker, S. Chang, and S. Grantham-McGregor)

“Pre- and Postnatal Arsenic Exposure and Child Development at 18 months of Age: a Cohort Study in Rural Bangladesh,” International Journal of Epidemiology 2010, pp.1-11 (Joint with Hamadani, J, Grantham-McGregor, SM, Tofail, F, Nermell, B, Fangstrom, B, Huda, S, Yesmin, S, Rahman, M, Arifeen, S, Vahter, M)

“How Complex are the Contracts Offered by Health Plans,” SERIEs (Journal of the Spanish Economic Association) 1(3), 2010, pp. 305-323 (Joint with Pau Olivella)

“Are Tax Subsidies for Private Medical Insurance Self-financing? Evidence from a Microsimulation Model”, The Journal of Health Economics, Volume 27, 2008, pp. 1285-1298 (Joint with Angel López-Nicolás).

“Competition Among Differentiated Health Plans under Adverse Selection” The Journal of Health Economics, vol 26, 2007 , pp. 233-250. (joint with Pau Olivella).

“Counts with an Endogenous Dummy Regressor: A Series Expansion Approach”, The Econometrics Journal, Vol. 8(1), June 2005, pp. 1-22. (Joint with Andres Romeu)

“Child Health in Rural Colombia. Determinants and Policy Interventions” Economics and Human Biology, Special Issue on Child Health in Latin America. Edited by J. R. Behrman, E. Skoufias, Volume 2(3), December 2004, Pages 335-518 (joint with O. Attanasio, L.C. Gómez, and A. Gómez)

“Structural Estimation of a Principal-Agent Model: Moral Hazard in Medical Insurance”, The Rand Journal of Economics, Vol.34, No. 4, Winter 2003, pp. 670-693.

“Duplicate Coverage and Demand for Health Care. The Case of Catalonia”. Health Economics. Vol. 8, No. 7, November 1999, pp. 579-598.

Book Chapters and Invited Articles

‘Health Inequality: A Tale of Expansion and Fragmentation’ (joint with S. Berlinski and J. Gagate-Miranda) In Busso, Matías, and Julián Messina (eds) *The Inequality Crisis: Latin America and the Caribbean at the Crossroads*. Inter-American Development Bank, 2020.
<https://doi.org/10.18235/0002629>.

Berlinski, Samuel, and Marcos Vera-Hernández. ‘The Economics of Early Interventions Aimed at Child Development’. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Economics and Finance*. Oxford University Press, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190625979.013.545>.

Berlinski, Samuel, and Marcos Vera-Hernández. ‘The Rationale for Interventions to Foster Child Development’. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Economics and Finance*. Oxford University Press, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190625979.013.42>.

“The Evaluation of Public Policies in the Law of Sustainable Economy” (In Spanish) in (eds.) Bagés, M., Fernández-Villaverde, J. and Garicano, L. E-book on the Law of Sustainable Economy. Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada. Madrid. Spain.

“A Practitioner’s Guide to Evaluating the Impacts of Labor Market Programs”, World Bank Employment Policy Primer Issue No.12, December 2009. (joint with E. Fitzsimons)

“Evaluating Public Health Interventions without Experiments,”(In Spanish) *Gaceta Sanitaria* Vo.17, 2003, (Journal of The Spanish Association of Public Health)

“Interactions between Public and Private Health Insurance,” (In Spanish) in Casanova (eds) “Public and Private Interface in Health”. Masson. 2003

Institutional Citizenship

Sept 2020 - Academic Co-Director of the UCL Policy Lab

Sept 2020 - Admissions Tutor

Sept 2017 – Sept 2020: Chair of the Board of Examiners

Sept 2017- Dec 2019: Deputy Head of Department

Sept 2016- August 2017: Deputy BSc Director

Sept 2014- August 2017: Study Abroad Tutor

Sept 2014- August 2016: Affiliate (visiting students) Tutor

Sept 2014- July 2018: External examiner Master Public Administration at LSE

Sept 2017- ongoing: Co-organizer of the CREAM-Applied Micro seminar

Sept 2014-June 2017: Co-organizer of the UCL/Sticerd Development seminar

Member of the Advisory Board of the Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation Center for the Economics of Breastfeeding (Center).University of Zurich

Co-Director of the MSc in Health Economics and Decision Science. Co-directed with J. Skordis Worrall (Institute of Child Health), and G Baio (Dept. of Statistics). One of the few MSc at UCL co-directed across three faculties

Member of the UCL Health Economic Steering Committee

Co-organizer of a Cemmap workshop on “Workshop on The Regression Discontinuity Design: Methodological Issues and Applications in Economics, Statistics and Epidemiology,” together with the Dept. of Statistical Sciences (UCL)

Organizer of a Special Session of the 2016 Annual Conference of the Royal Economic Society on “Public Sector Delivery in Developing Countries.” Presenters: Nava Ashraf (Harvard Business School), Paul Gertler (UC Berkeley), C Leaver (U Oxford)

Co-organizer of a PEPA workshop on “Towards a common Language in Statistical Methodology: Examples from Current Applications” together with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Member of the Judging panel for the first ever UCL Global Health Day Competition

Member of the Scientific Committee of the Royal Economic Society Annual Conference (2014-16) & (2016-19)

Organizer of the COSME Gender Workshop (Madrid, April 2015), joint with Virginia Sánchez-Marcos and Laura Hospido

Member of the Committee on the Situation of Women in Economics (Spanish Economics Association)

Internal PhD examiner: 5 since June 2014. I am usually at the maximum allowed by UCL

External PhD examiner at LSE(x4), Bristol, City, Manchester, Essex(x2), Royal Holloway (x2), Sussex U., London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Manchester, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona (x2), Universidad Carlos III de Madrid(x3), Universidad Nova de Lisboa

External PhD upgrade examiner at the Institute of Child Health (UCL)

ESRC Future Leader mentor

PhD advisory committee to Ben Palafox, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Student Supervision

Current PhD Students: Elena Ashtari Tafti (Primary), Paula Spinola (UCL IGH, Primary)

Completed PhD Students (Primary supervisor): Julieta Trias (2013), Lucia Rizzica (2014), Anna Tur-Prats (2014), Paul Rodríguez Lesmes (2017), Ravi Somani (2019)

Completed PhD Students (Secondary supervisor): Niklas Buehren (2013), Nuarppear Lekfuangfu (2015), Jaime Quijano (2014), Rubén Poblete (2019), and Charles Birundi (UCL IGH, 2019)

Advisor of affiliate graduate students: Anna Tur (2009-10 & 2010-11), Bing Guo (2009), Leandro Costa (2006-07) and Aida Galiano (2006-07)

MSc dissertations: Average of 4 per year (above my quota). Two dissertations have been published (Health Economics and Journal of Policy Analysis and Management)

Teaching

Nominated by UCL students for the Award for Outstanding Teaching in the 2016 Student Choice Teaching Awards, Outstanding Personal Tutor in the 2018 Choice Teaching Awards, Brilliant Research Based Education in 2020.

Doug McKee (Associate Chair at the Economics Dept. in Yale University) observed my ECON3019 teaching and wrote a blog on how I dealt and encouraged student questions <http://teachbetter.co/blog/2016/03/17/handling-student-questions/>. Amongst other things, he wrote: "*I learned much about taxation in developing countries (which was great), but I was very pleasantly surprised to get a master class in handling student questions and responses to his own questions*"

MSc Teaching: Health Economics, Microeconomics for Public Policy, MSc in Health Psychology

Undergraduate: Economics of Information, Economic Policy Analysis, Issues in Economic Development

Short courses in U. Los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia), U. Parthenope (Naples, Italy)

Funding

Medical Research Council. "Consumer Cost-Sharing in Primary Care: Unintended Health and Economic Outcomes" Ref MR/T022175/1. Role co-PI (joint with Prof. Buitrago). £ 201,721. April 2020-March 2022.

China Medical Board 16-257 “Mapping of, and Strategies to Improve Access to Public Health Services among Migrants in Urban China.” Role: Co-PI with Prof. Chengchao Zhou (Shandong University). £130,000. Role: co-PI

PATH DFID.1836-705708-GRT “Leveraging an existing large-scale safe water program to deliver nutrition messages at a low marginal cost” 2015-2017. £250,000. Role: PI

Joint Global Health Trials: MRC, Wellcome Trust, DFID “The “IRIE CLASSROOMS TOOLBOX: A cluster randomised trial of a universal violence prevention programme in Jamaican preschools”. 2015-2018. Role: PI IFS subcontract. Lead-PI: Helen Henningham (U. West Indies - Jamaica)

The World Bank: “Evaluation of the Rapid Results Approach to Improve Childhood Nutrition in Nepal”, 2013-2018. Role: Co-PI (with Emla Fitzsimons)

The World Bank: “Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies: Testing Innovative Solutions for Maternal and Child Health Program in Nigeria”, Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund (World Bank-administered), 2012- April 2018, \$465,362. Role Co-PI (with Pedro Rosa-Dias)

Health Foundation Efficiency Research Programme: “The Allocative Efficiency of Health Spending on Older People.” April 2015-March 2019, £400,000. Role: co-PI. PI: G Tetlow

3ie: “Evaluation of Centres for Infant Development: An Early Years Intervention in Colombia.” Role: co-investigator. PI: Orazio Attanasio (UCL). Total amount: £350.000

ESRC/DFID: “Improving Productivity in Developing Countries: Identifying Bottlenecks and Obstacles to Productive Investments and Technology Adoption.” Role: co-investigator. PI: Orazio Attanasio. Total amount (aprox.) £400.000

National Institute of Health, 2011-2014: “Paying-for-Performance and Comparative Effectiveness of Strategies to Combat Anemia in China.” Role: PI UCL subcontract. Lead-PI: Grant Miller (Stanford). Total amount: \$2.500.000.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 2011-2015: “The Bihar Evaluation of Social Franchising and Telemedicine.” Role: PI UCL subcontract. Lead-PI: Manoj Mohanan (Duke). Total amount: \$3,050,000.

ESRC, 2009-1012. “Early Childhood Development: Identifying Successful Interventions and the Mechanisms Behind Them.” Role: co-investigator. Amount: £715,982. PI: E. Fitzsimons

ESRC/Hewlett Foundation, 2008-2011, “The Effects of Reproductive Health in Malawi” Role: PI. Amount £400.000.

Inter-American Development Bank. “The Impact of the Subsidized Health Insurance in Colombia” June 2007 – September 2008. Role: Co-PI

ESRC/DFID. 2006-2009, Reference Number RES-167-25-0124 “Human Capital Accumulation and Poverty Reduction in Developing Countries” Role : Investigator

Inter-American Development Bank: “Child Health, Poverty and the Role of Social Policies.” May 2003–April 2004. Role: Researcher. PI: Prof. Orazio Attanasio.

ESRC: “Household Consumption under Extreme Poverty.” January 2004–January 2005. Role: Researcher. PI: Prof. Orazio Atanassio.

EU: “Structural Estimation of Models with Asymmetric Information.” Nov 2001–Oct 2003. “Marie Curie” Postdoctoral Fellowship. Tutor: Prof. Richard Blundell.

Presentations

Keynote speaker: Prometeo Workshop, Univ Alicante (October 2020), 7th Workshop in behavioral and experimental health economics. (Innsbruck, February 2020), PhD conference at Sussex, (2019), I Meeting of the Health Economics Network LACEA (Bogotá, October 2018); II American-European Health Economics Study Group (Oxford, July 2017); International Growth Centre (Maputo, July 2015); Royal Holloway PhD conference (London, April 2014).

Invited talks: Universidad Adolfo Ibanez (Chile, Nov 2019), Corporacion Adina de Fomento (Buenos Aires, 2019) y Universidad de la Republica (Montevideo, Nov 2019), Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona (Nov 2019), Kent (February 2019), Edinburgh (Nov. 2018), Warwick (Nov. 2018), Munich (April 2018), Shandong (Nov. 2017), Barcelona (Sept. 2017), Zurich (May 2017), Essex University (May 2017), U. Pompeu Fabra (April 2017), Inter American Development Bank (Feb. 2017), World Bank (Feb. 2017), Trinity College Dublin (Nov. 2016), York University (March 2016), Strathclyde Business School (Dec. 2015), Erasmus University Rotterdam (Nov. 2015), Universitat Cattolica Milan (Oct. 2015), UCL Centre Behavioural Change (April 2015), Kenya Social Protection Conference (Jan. 2015), Southampton (October 2014).

Recent workshops: Rennes (Nov. 2018), Gothenburg (August 2018), Paris (May 2018), Barcelona GSE (June 2017), Oslo (May 2017).

Reviewer

-La Caixa Foundation

- Member of the ESRC College Review

-Panel member of the Medical Research Council “Confidence in Global Nutrition and Health Research” funding initiative

-Panel member for the British Academy special call on early childhood development

-The Netherlands Foundation for Science for Global Development

-The World Bank (SIEF, i2i)

-Panel member of the Ramon Cajal and Juan de la Cierva Fellowships (Spanish Ministry of Education), 2016

BBVA Foundation, AGAUR (Catalonian Agency for Research Projects Financing), ANECA (Spanish equivalent of ESRC), Medical Research Council UK

Promotion letters: Harvard School of Public Health, UC Berkeley, Univ of Leicester, Univ of Essex, UCL IoE

Peer review of the book “Practical Guide to Impact Evaluation” by R. Bernal and X. Pena

Other

Academic Advisor to 2020 The Development Bank of Latin America Flagship report: Álvarez, F., Brassiolo, P., Toledo, M., Allub, L., Alves, G., De la Mata, D., ... Daude, C. (2020). RED 2020: Los sistemas de pensiones y salud en América Latina. Los desafíos del envejecimiento, el cambio tecnológico y la informalidad. Caracas: CAF. Retrieved from <http://scioteca.caf.com/handle/123456789/1652>

Associate Editor: Journal of Health Economics

Associate Editor: European Economic Review

Associate Editor: Fiscal Studies

Associate Editor: SERIEs: Journal of the Spanish Economic Association (elected)

Member of the Executive Board of the Committee on the Situation of Women in Economics of the Spanish Economics Association (2014-17).

Member of the Scientific Committee of the 5th and 6th World Congress of the International Health Economic Association

Member of the awarding committee for the Student Competition of the Fifth Conference of the World Health Economics Association

Member of the Scientific Committee and of the awarding committee for the Student Competition of the XXXIV Conference of the European Association for Research in Industrial Economics