

Marcos Vera-Hernández

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Employment

Oct. 2019-	Professor of Economics, University College London
Oct. 2014-Sept. 2019	Associate Professor, University College London
Oct. 2012-Sept. 2014	Senior Lecturer, University College London
Sep. 2005-Sept. 2012	Lecturer, University College London
Oct. 2004-Sept. 2005	Assistant Professor, Universidad Carlos III 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
Oct. 1996-July 2001	Postgraduate Teaching Assistant, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Other Affiliations and positions

2024-	Research Fellow, Centre for Economic Policy Research
2023-	Affiliate, Stone Centre on Wealth Concentration, Inequality and the Economy
2022-	Research Associate, Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration
2022- 2024	Member, Advisory Committee of the Spanish Ministry of Inclusion and Social Security
2021-	Member, Advisory Board of the Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation Center for the Economics of Breastfeeding. University of Zurich
2021-	Associate, Center for Teaching and Learning in Economics
2020- 2024	Economics Academic Co-Director (founding), UCL Policy Lab
2018-	Honorary member, Spanish Committee for Women in Economics
2014- 2017	Member, Spanish Committee for Women in Economics
2009- 2010	Member Research Advisory Board, Australian Centre for Econ. Research on Health
2005-	Research Fellow, Institute for Fiscal Studies

Education

June 2001 PhD. in Economics. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Sept. 1998 MSc. in Economics. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
July 1996 BSc. in Economics. Universidad Complutense de Madrid

Research Fields

Health Economics, Development Economics and Applied Microeconomics.

Selected Awards

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

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.”

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.

Journal Articles

Over 40 articles in prestigious peer-reviewed journals, including 30 in economics and 10 in leading medical journals. A selected list includes:

“Incentivizing Demand for Supply-Constrained Care: Institutional Birth in India” (joint with Alison Andrews). The Review of Economics and Statistics 106 (1), January 2024: 102-118.

“Breastfeeding and Child Development” (joint with E. Fitzsimons). American Economic Journal: Applied Economics 14 (3), July 2022: 14 (3): 329-66

“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, 13 (4), October 2021: 34-69

“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

“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

“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.

“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

“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.

“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)

“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)

“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).

“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)

“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

‘Health Inequality: A Tale of Expansion and Fragmentation’ (joint with S. Berlinski and J Gagete-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.

PhD Student Supervision and Mentoring

Successfully supervised seven PhD students as primary supervisor, and other five students as secondary supervisor.

Currently mentor to a ESRC New Investigator awardee, and previously was mentor to an ESRC Future Leader.

Currently mentoring a junior member of the Spanish Health Economics Association, and last year mentored another one.

Education

2024 – *Faculty Education Award* (individual award, category: Enhancing Belonging)

Using microdata from UCL, I undertook a review of the BSc admission criteria that led to 10 percentage points increase in the percentage of female students

2022 – *Faculty Education Award* (team award, category: Openness and Inclusion)

Co-led a programme with Dr Silvia Dal Bianco to strengthen the voice of BAME students and lead to actions to close the awarding gap

Nominated by UCL students to the Student Choice Awards:

Outstanding Teaching (2016), Outstanding Personal Tutor (2018), Brilliant Research Based Education (2020), Outstanding Research Supervision (2021), Inspiring Teaching Delivery (2021, 2023, 2024).

Teaching experience (academic):

Health Economics (MSc, UCL)

Microeconomics for Public Policy (MSc, UCL)

Economics of Information (BSc, UCL)

Economic Policy Analysis (BSc, UCL)

Issues in Economic Development (BSc, UCL)

Impact Evaluation: short courses in U. Los Andes (Bogotá), U. Parthenope (Naples)

Regression Discontinuity: Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Bogotá)

Teaching experience (policy):

Impact Evaluation for policy makers: Ofcom (2022-2024) and FCDO (2018-2022)

Selected Research Funding (from 2020):

STONE Centre at UCL. “Identifying barriers in university admissions of students with excellent academic results”. Role: PI. £15,000. March 2023-March 2024.

UCL BAME Awarding Gap Staff Fund. “Channelling the BAME student voice to unveil the hidden curriculum and build an inclusive learning community” (Co-investigator). PI Silvia Bianco. £24,705. Nov 2021-Nov 2024

SHS Dean’s Strategic Award. “Using Rich Data to Design a More Inclusive and Fair Undergraduate Admission System in Economics.” £2,500. February 2021-July 2021.

National Institute of Health (USA). “Longitudinal study of health outcomes and mitigating factors in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic” Role PI UCL Subcontract (Overall co-PIs Joanna Maselko & Manoj Mohanan). US\$ 2,498,582. September 2021-August 2026.

Rockwool Foundation. “Initial Evaluation of OS-I-Branchen” Role co-PI (joint with Fane Naas Groes). £89,162. July 2021-December 2023

Rockwool Foundation. “Mental health and peer effects in primary schools: implications for future”
Role co-PI (joint with Ana Balsa). £186,332. April 2022-December 2024

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). £175,026. August 2020-August 2023.

Institutional Citizenship

(at UCL, unless otherwise noted)

2024- Member, Steering Committee of the Health, Mind and Society Initiative
2024- Member, Admissions Requirement Panel
2023- Member, Student Access and Success Committee
2022- Member, Admission Transformation Project Advisory Group
2021- 23 Member, Student Recruitment, Admissions and Funding Committee
2021- Member, Steering Group of the Collaborative Social Science Domain
2020- BSc. Admissions Tutor, Department of Economics
2020-24 Economics Academic Co-Director (founding) of the UCL Policy Lab
2019-20 Working Group on Exam Board Statistical Reports
2017- Co-organizer of the CREAM-Applied Economics seminar
2017-21 Co-Director of the MSc in Health Economics and Decision Science
2017-20 Chair of the Board of Examiners, Department of Economics
2017-19 Deputy Head of Department, Department of Economics
2016-17 Deputy BSc Director, Department of Economics
2016-17 External examiner, Department of Economics, University of Surrey
2014-17 Study Abroad Tutor, Department of Economics
2014-16 Affiliate (visiting students) Tutor, Department of Economics
2014-18 External examiner Master Public Administration at LSE
2014-17 Co-organizer of the UCL/Sticerd Development seminar

Knowledge Transfer

2020-2024: Founding Economics Academic Co-Director of the UCL Policy Lab, a high-level initiative between the UCL Departments of Political Science and Economics to promote the policy impact of the research undertaken by both departments.

2022-2024: Member of the Advisory Committee of the Spanish Ministry of Inclusion and Social Security, advising the Spanish Ministry of Inclusion over policies to promote social inclusion and improve the safety net.

2020: Academic Advisor to The Development Bank of Latin America Flagship report: Álvarez, F., et al. (2020). RED 2020: The pension and health systems in Latin America: the challenges of ageing, technological change, and informality. Caracas: CAF.

<http://scioteca.caf.com/handle/123456789/1652>

2022- Assisting the Department of Health and Social Care on benefit-cost calculations of policies to promote breastfeeding, based on the estimates of my article: “Breastfeeding and Child Development.”

2015: Co-authored a widely used user guide, which includes tools in Excel, to help practitioners to compute the sample size for experiments that they plan or run or commission:

- McConnell, B., Vera-Hernández, M. (2015). [Going beyond simple sample size calculations: a practitioner's guide](#). London: Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Publications co-authored with economists from the Inter-American Development Bank and the Development Bank of Latin America:

- Bancalari, A., Berlinski, S., Buitrago, G., García, M. F., Mata, D., Vera-Hernández, M. (2024). [Health Systems and Health Inequalities in Latin America](#). Oxford Open Economics. *In Press*. [*Special volume on the Latin American and Caribbean Inequality Review*]
- Bancalari, A., Berlinski, S., Buitrago, G., García, M. F., Mata, D., Vera-Hernández, M. (2024). [Health Inequalities in Latin American and the Caribbean: Child, Adolescent, Reproductive, Metabolic Syndrome and Mental Health](#). Oxford Open Economics. *In Press*. [*Special volume on the Latin American and Caribbean Inequality Review*]
- ‘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>.

Contributed to disseminate economics amongst the general public through 40 blog entries at www.nadaesgratis.es, a high impact economics blog in Spanish.

2017- 2022: Member of the team of the Center for Teaching and Learning in Economics which delivered the course “Economics for Foreign Policy” to the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office.

2022- Taught ex-post impact evaluation methods to Ofcom economists as part of the Competition Economics course delivered to Ofcom by the Centre for Teaching and Learning in Economics.