

Camilo Acosta

Inter-American Development Bank
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Summary

Results-driven economist with extensive experience in international development and academia, specializing in economic research, impact evaluation, and evidence-based decision-making. Currently leading initiatives at the Inter-American Development Bank to strengthen the link between knowledge, operations, and development effectiveness. Ph.D. in Economic Analysis and Policy from the University of Toronto, with expertise in firms, trade, and economic geography, and a strong publication record in top-tier journals.

Education

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| 2014-2020 | Ph.D. in Economic Analysis and Policy, Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, Canada |
| 2012-2013 | M.A. in Economics, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia. |
| 2008-2012 | B.A. in Economics, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia. |

Employment

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| 2023- | <p>Inter-American Development Bank, Washington, DC.</p> <p>Specialist, Knowledge and Learning Division</p> <p><i>Relevant Duties and Responsibilities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compute knowledge indicators for the Impact Framework and the Knowledge Influence Index.• Lead a team building Evidence Gap Maps to support the use of evidence in operations.• Support the monitoring of impact evaluations.• Study executing units' engagement and commitment to enhancing project effectiveness.• Support the Knowledge Advisory Committee. <p><i>Key Achievements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work together with 3ie, SPD/SDV, VPS/CIS and VPS/TSP in the construction and implementation of Evidence Gap Maps for the Citizen Security and Transportation divisions.• Participated in the Development Effectiveness Framework reform group.• Proposed and implemented two indicators for the IDB Group Impact Framework.• Member of two multi-departmental teams winning R&D Technical Cooperations being implemented in 2025.• Supported the the Amazon's Unit Knowledge Agenda and Brazil's 2024-2027 Country Strategy. |
| 2022-2023 | <p>Aalborg University, Copenhagen, Denmark.</p> <p>External Research Fellow for the Project RESPOND, BUILD-Department of the Built Environment.</p> <p><i>Key achievements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designed two rounds of a national survey to study firms' strategies during and after COVID-19 in Denmark.• Publish a research article with the survey results. |
| 2020-2023 | <p>Universidad EAFIT, Medellin, Colombia.</p> <p>Assistant Professor, School of Finance, Economics and Government.</p> <p><i>Key Achievements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-lead three projects providing support to public policy interventions in Colombia: (i) the design of an impact evaluation for a housing improvement program, (ii) the socioeconomic valuation of an urban renewal program, and (iii) the economic analysis of a proposal for a gradual business formalization program.• Published three peer-reviewed articles in top journals and started various other research projects. |

- Runner-up, Excellence in Teaching Award.
- Adviser for five undergraduate and five master's degree theses.

Publications

- "Spatial Wage Differentials, Geographic Frictions and the Organization of Labor within Firms," with Ditte Håkonsson Lyngemark, 2025. *Regional Science and Urban Economics*. [\[LINK\]](#)
- "Uncertainty and Immigrant Entrepreneurship: Evidence from Brexit," with Astrid Marinoni, 2025. *Organization Science* [\[LINK\]](#)
- "Quality of Communications Infrastructure, Local Structural Transformation, and Inequality" with Luis Baldomero-Quintana, 2024. *Journal of Economic Geography*. [\[LINK\]](#)
- "Access to Formal Financial Markets and Microbusiness Formalization in Colombia," with Acevedo, A., & Angel, A. 2023. *Revista Coyuntura Económica de Fedesarrollo*. [\[LINK\]](#)
- "The Internal Spatial Organization of Firms: Evidence from Denmark," with Ditte Håkonsson Lyngemark. 2021. *Journal of Urban Economics*. [\[LINK\]](#)
- "Pobreza, Brechas y Ruralidad en Colombia," with Parra-Peña, R.I., & Ordoñez, L. 2013. *Revista Coyuntura Económica de Fedesarrollo*. [\[LINK\]](#)

IDB Publications

- "Unveiling the IDB's Project Executing Units: Performance Indicators, Results-Based Management, and Demand for Knowledge" with Cambra, G., Martínez-Carrasco, J., Cerda, M., Kang, M., Villalba, H., & Yepez, C. 2024. *IDB Technical Note TN-02961*. [\[LINK\]](#)

Work in Progress and Working Papers

- "On the Tension Between Due Process Protection and Public Safety: The Case of an Extensive Procedural Reform in Colombia," with Angela Zorro-Medina and Daniel Mejía, 2023. *Revise and Resubmit - Journal of Law and Economics*. [\[LINK\]](#)
- "Superstar ZIP Codes," with Fabian Eckert and Jack Liang, 2024. *Draft available on request*.
- "Resilience Strategies of Danish Firms in the Pandemic," with Nino Javakhishvili-Larsen and Bence János Bője-Kovács, 2024. *Revise and Resubmit - Global Challenges and Regional Science*.
- "Are Free Trade Agreements being Used? Transaction Level Evidence for Colombia," with Cindy Leal, 2023. [\[LINK\]](#)
- "The Incidence of Land Use Regulations." Documento de Trabajo CIEF 21-04, 2021. [\[LINK\]](#)
- "Birth Rates, Factor Shares and Growth." with Andrés Alvarez, Camilo Gomez and Hernando Zuleta. Documento CEDE 2019-20. [\[LINK\]](#)
- "Un Enfoque Económico de la Detención Preventiva. Crecimiento de la Población Reclusa y Hacinamiento Carcelario en el Tránsito del Sistema Penal Acusatorio Colombiano (2003-2008)." (with Hernandez, N., & Zorro-Medina, A.) In E. Lozano -Rodríguez (Ed.), *Teoría y Puesta en Práctica del Análisis Económico del Derecho Colombiano* (pp. 251-282) Bogotá: Ediciones Uniandes, 2016.

Referee Service

Journal of Urban Economics, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Real Estate Economics, Journal of Regional Sciences, Scientific Reports, Journal of Economics and Management Strategy, Journal of Housing Economics, IDB Working Paper Series, European Journal of International Management, Desarrollo y Sociedad, Built Environment, Journal of Economic Structures.

Teaching Experience

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| 2024-2025 | Advanced Microeconomics (Invited Instructor); Graduate, Universidad EAFIT. |
| 2020-2023 | Advanced Microeconomics, Industrial Organization, Topics in Urban Economics; Graduate, Universidad EAFIT. |

2020-2023	General Macroeconomics, Industrial Organization; Undergraduate, Universidad EAFIT.
2015-2019	Teaching Assistant, International Trade, Advanced Macroeconomics, Real Estate Economics, Real Estate Investment, Managerial Economics, Model-Based Decision Making; University of Toronto.

Other Research Experience

2016-2019	Research Assistant for Professors Nathaniel Baum-Snow, William Strange, Lu Han, and Mitchell Hoffman. University of Toronto.
2013-2014	Research Assistant for Professors Marcela Eslava, John Haltiwanger, Hernando Zuleta, and Hernán Vallejo. Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia.

Conferences & Talks

2025	American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association Annual Meetings (Washington, D.C. - Discussant).
2024	American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association Annual Meetings (Washington, D.C.), Urban Economic Association Meetings (Washington, D.C.), Southern Economic Association Meetings (Washington, D.C.).
2023	University of North Texas, Universidad ICESI (Cali), AREUEA Online Seminar, 4th Urban and Regional Economics Workshop - U Javeriana & RSAI (Bogota), Transitional Entrepreneurship Colloquium (Virtual).
2022	American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association Annual Meetings (Washington, D.C.), Workshop on Strategy and Structure of Business Groups (CEPR - Milan), Congreso Anual de la Red de Investigadores de Economía (Cali).
2021	Banco de la República (Medellín), American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association Annual Meetings (Virtual), ICESI (Cali), Zoning Bylaw Renewal Team (Edmonton).
2020	ENSAE - CREST (Paris), Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Bogota), Universidad EAFIT (Medellin), Online Urban Economics Seminar (organized by Philadelphia FED), Virtual Urban Economic Association Meetings.
2019	Canadian Urban Economics Conference (Montreal), 2nd Urban and Regional Economics Workshop - U Javeriana (Bogota), University of Toronto.
2018	Canadian Economic Association Meetings (Montreal), Urban Economic Association Meetings (New York), Kraks Fond (Copenhagen).

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Urban Economics Association Meetings, 2022; The Economics of Informality Conference, Universidad del Rosario, 2022; Latin American and Caribbean Economics Association (LACEA), 2021; 5th RES Symposium of Junior Researchers - Royal Economic Society, 2019.

Honors & Awards

2024	AI for Growth (Technical Cooperation), Inter-American Development Bank.
2024	Development Effectiveness Intelligence Fund (Technical Cooperation), Inter-American Development Bank.
2020-2022	Internal Research Funding, Universidad EAFIT.
2020	Hartle Award (for outstanding graduate scholarship on a policy-relevant topic), Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto.
2019-2020	University of Toronto Fellowship (UTF).
2014-2019	PhD Fellowship, Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto.
2016-2019	Myron J. Gordon Fellowship. Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto.
2017	CRESSE Fellowship in Competition Policy.
2008-2013	"The Best Students", SAB Miller - Bavaria S.A, Bogotá, Colombia.

Additional Skills

Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent), Portuguese (advanced), German (intermediate), French (basic).
Softwares: Stata, GIS, Python, R, PowerBI, \LaTeX