Jimena Rico-Straffon

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Education

Expected May 2026	Ph.D. in Economics, University of California, Santa Barbara
2020	M.A. in Economics, University of California, Santa Barbara
2017	Diploma in Dynamic Econometric Models, ITAM
2015	Master of Public Policy, Duke University
2011	B.A. in Economics (honors), Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM)

Research Fields

Environmental Economics, Labor Economics, Development Economics

References

Heather Royer
Professor of Economics
University of California, Santa Barbara
heather.royer@ucsb.edu

Kyle Meng
Associate Professor of Economics
University of California, Santa Barbara
kylemeng@ucsb.edu

Olivier Deschênes
Professor of Economics
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Placement Officers

Daniel Martin (Placement Director)
Associate Professor of Economics
University of California, Santa Barbara
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Graduate Program Coordinator
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Publications (abstracts at end)

Rico-Straffon, J., Wang, Z., Loucks, C.J. & Pfaff, A. (2025) When Do Extraction Rights Help Forests? Robustness & heterogeneity for logging interventions in the Peruvian Amazon *Conservation Science and Practice*, e70081.

Rico-Straffon, J., Wang, Z., Panlasigui, S., Swenson, J., Loucks, C.J. & Pfaff, A. (2023) Forest Concessions & Eco-Certifications in the Peruvian Amazon: Deforestation Impacts of Logging Rights and Restrictions. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 118, 102780.

Panlasigui, S., **Rico-Straffon, J.**, Pfaff, A., Swenson, J., Loucks, C. (2018). Impacts of certification, uncertified concessions, and protected areas on forest loss in Cameroon, 2000 to 2013. *Biological Conservation, 227*, 160-166.

Work in Progress (abstracts at end)

- **Job Market Paper:** *Impacts of Piped Water Shortages on Labor Supply: Evidence from Mexico City*
- "Comparing Protection Types in the Peruvian Amazon: Multiple-Use Protected Areas Did No Worse for Forests." with Zhenhua Wang, Sofia Olguin, and Alexander Pfaff

Teaching Experience

Head Teaching Assistant, UCSB Economics

2022-2025	Economics 10A: Intermediate Microeconomics (Fall 2025, Winter 2023, Fall 2022)

Teaching Assistant, UCSB Economics

2025, 2023	Principles of Macroeconomics (Spring 2023 & 2025)
2019–2022	Intermediate Microeconomics (multiple quarters)
2021	Intermediate Macroeconomics (Winter & Summer)

Other Teaching Experience

2012	Substitute Lecturer, Economics I, ITAM
2010	Instructor, Remedial Math Courses, Public Schools, Mexico City
2009–2012	Private Tutor, Economics and Math

Research Positions

2023	Summer Research Fellow, Bank of Mexico
2022	RA for Prof. Kelsey Jack & Prof. Kyle Meng, UCSB
2021	RA for Prof. Tamma Carleton, UCSB

Professional Experience

2015–2019	Economist, Economic Research Division, Bank of Mexico, Mexico City
2014–2015	Impact Evaluation Consultant, WWF, Washington, D.C. & Durham, N.C.
2011–2013	Econometrics Section Head, National Institute of Ecology, Mexico City
2009–2011	Analyst, Thesis Consulting, Mexico City

Fellowships, Grants & Awards

2025	Job Market Summer Research Fellowship, UCSB
	Research Quarter Fellowship, UCSB
	Travel Grant to present at Policy Research Workshop, World Bank & UniAndes
	Two Doctoral Student Travel Grants, UCSB Academic Senate
	AERE Travel Scholarship to present at AERE Summer Conference
2024	Latin American and Iberian Studies Alumni Research Award, UCSB
2023	Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, UCSB
	Graduate Student Research and Training Grant, Broom Center for Demography, UCSB
2022	Deacon Fellowship, UCSB Economics
	Sustainable Development Research Grant, CAF Development Grant of Latin America
	Travel Grant to present at LACEA-LAMES conference, CAF Development Bank
2021	Diversity Fellowship, UC Berkeley and Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
2019–2024	Doctoral Fellowship, UCSB
2019–2024	Doctoral Fellowship, UC MEXUS-CONACYT
2016-2017	Scholarship for ITAM's Dynamic Econometric Models Diploma, Banco de México
2015	Richard A. Stubbing Fellowship, Duke University
2013–2015	Graduate Studies Fellowship, Duke University & CONACYT
2006-2008	Academic Excellence Scholarship, ITAM

Conference Presentations & Seminars

2025	AERE Summer Conference (New Mexico); Western Economic Association (San Francisco); ITAM Alumni Conference (Mexico City); All California Labor Conference (Stanford, poster); Policy Research Workshop: Women & Jobs in LAC (Colombia)
2024	Applied Microeconomics Seminar (UCSB); Broom Center Demography Seminar (UCSB)
2023	AERE Summer Conference (Portland, Maine); Western Economic Association (San Diego); Urban Economics Workshop (Mexico City); ITAM Alumni Conference (Mexico City); All California Labor Economics Conference (UCSB, poster)
2022	AERE Summer Conference (Miami)
2018	World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists (Gothenburg); Sustainable Development Ph.D. Workshop (Columbia University)
2017	IEA World Congress (Mexico City); International Symposium on Environment and Energy Finance Issues (Paris)
2015	UNC-Duke Consortium LAC Conference (Chapel Hill)

Invited Talks

2022	Invited session on "Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean," LACEA-LAMES Annual Meeting (Lima, Peru)
2017	Sanford LAC Brownbag Seminar, Duke University (NC, USA)
2016	WWF, Amazon Conservation Association, FSC, and SERFOR (Peru)
2015	WWF Brownbag Seminar (Washington, D.C.)
2012	Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Workshop, UNEP (Mexico City)

Service

Since 2020	Mentor of first-year Ph.D. in Economics students, UCSB.
2020-2022	Co-president of WeSB, *We are Economics at Santa Barbara*, UCSB.
2018	Dissertation committee member for Anais Anderson, B.A. in Economics, ITAM.
2014-2015	Co-chair of the Sanford Latin American and Caribbean Group, Duke University.

Refereeing

Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Environment and Development Economics, Global Environmental Change,

Computer Skills

Stata, R, LaTeX, Python, QGIS, ArcGIS, EViews

Languages

English (native proficiency), Spanish (native), French (intermediate), German (basic)

Selected Abstracts

Job Market Paper-*Impacts of Piped Water Shortages on Labor Supply: Evidence from Mexico City*

Urban water shortages are an increasingly urgent challenge in large cities, driven by population growth, climate change, and aging infrastructure. In Mexico City—where households lack alternative sources—disruptions to piped supply force residents to wait for public deliveries, buy water from private suppliers, or rely on bottled water, often requiring someone to stay home. These shocks can affect both time and income, creating theoretically ambiguous effects on labor supply. This paper estimates the short-run effects of piped water shortages on hours worked in Mexico City. I use variation in upstream reservoir storage—driven by rainfall—and distance to their entry point because more distant neighborhoods are more affected. Water shortages reduce hours worked overall: a one standard deviation increase in shortages leads to a 3.3% drop in weekly hours. Effects are heterogeneous: female formal employees—with access to job protections—reduce hours worked, likely reallocating time toward caregiving and household duties, while female informal employees increase hours, potentially to offset the financial burden of shortages. These findings highlight how gender roles and job informality jointly mediate labor supply responses to water insecurity in urban settings.

Forest Concessions & Eco-Certifications in the Peruvian Amazon: Deforestation Impacts of Logging Rights and Restrictions, **JEEM (2023)**, with Zhenhua Wang, Stephanie Panlasigui, Jennifer Swenson, Colby Loucks, and Alex Pfaff

Concessions that grant logging rights to firms support economic development based on forest resources. Eco-certifications put sustainability restrictions on the operations of those concessions. For spatially detailed data, including many pre-treatment years, we use new difference-in-differences estimators to estimate 2002–2018 impacts upon Peruvian Amazon forests from both logging concessions and their eco-certifications. We find that the concessions which in theory could raise or reduce forest loss did not raise loss, if anything reducing it slightly by warding off spikes in deforestation pressure. Eco-certifications could reduce or raise forest loss, yet we find no significant impacts.

When Do Extraction Rights Help Forests? Robustness & heterogeneity for logging interventions in the Peruvian Amazon, **Conservation Science and Practice (2025)** with Zhenhua Wang, Colby Loucks, and Alex Pfaff

Large areas of forest are allocated to commercial logging concessions, some of which are eco-certified. Theoretically, both holding concessions' rights to log and being eco-certified can increase or decrease forest loss. Impact estimates are sparse and unsurprisingly mixed for these interventions (that aim to affect forest outcomes, if not always for conservation). We ask if adding different forest sensors, forest outcomes, and variations in forest contexts sheds new light upon the forest impacts of uncertified concessions and eco-certifications. Using new global data, which include forest degradation, we estimate the forest impacts of these interventions within the Peruvian Amazon, disaggregating across timber regions to allow for heterogeneity in impacts across distinct contexts. Our results confirm that, when averaging across the regions, uncertified logging concessions do not increase deforestation (relative to unintervened forest), consistent with previous findings. Yet, separating regions adds insight for policy and external validity: uncertified concessions yield larger reductions in deforestation rates within the more highly pressured of these three core logging regions. Degradation data provide further insights: uncertified concessions did not shift transitions from forest to degraded status, yet reduced transitions from degraded status to deforested. Eco-certifications did not reduce deforestation or degradation across contexts or outcomes.

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