

MARTA FAVARA

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Employment

2023- Director of Research, Young Lives, University of Oxford
2020-23 Deputy Director and Principal Investigator, Young Lives, University of Oxford
2016-23 Senior Research Officer, Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford
2015-16 Research Officer, Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford
2013-14 Economist, Young Professional Program (YPP), The World Bank
2012-13 Extended Term Consultant, The World Bank
2011-12 Consultant; Health and Social protection, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
2009-11 Research Assistant, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex
2005-08 Research Fellow in Economics, University of Genoa (Italy)

Education

2013 PhD in Economics, Institute of Social and Economic research (ISER), University of Essex (UK)
2007 MSc in Economics, Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium)
2005 BSc in Political Sciences and Economics, University of Genoa (Italy)

Research affiliations

2023- IZA Research Fellow
2018- Associated Researcher, Group for the Analysis of Development (GRADE), Lima (Peru)
2018- Research Fellow, Oxford Martin School Programme on African Governance, University of Oxford
2012- 2023 IZA Research Affiliate

Teaching Experiences

2018-20 Gender Economics, MSc Development Economics, University of Oxford
2008-09 Statistics and Economics, Department of Political Science and Economics, University of Genoa, Italy;
2007-08 International Economics, University of Genoa, Italy.

Journal articles

2023 Sanchez, A., Favara, M., Behrman, J., M. Sheridan (2023), "[How Early Nutrition and Foundational Cognitive Skills Interconnect? Evidence from Two Developing Countries](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2023.106480)". World Development, Vol.176, 106480, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2023.106480>.

2023 Freund, R., Favara, M., Porter, C., Behrman, J., (2023), "[Social Protection and Foundational Cognitive Skills during Adolescence: Evidence from a Large Public Works Programme](https://doi.org/10.1093/wber/lhad035)", The World Bank Economic Review, 2023;, lhad035, <https://doi.org/10.1093/wber/lhad035>

2023 Mitchell, M., Favara, M., Porter, C. and Sanchez, A. (2023). "[Human Capital Development: New Evidence on the Production of Socio-Emotional Skills.](https://doi.org/10.3368/jhr.1120-11342R1)" Journal of Human Resources, Jun 2023, 1120-11342R1; <https://doi.org/10.3368/jhr.1120-11342R1>

2023 Perez-Alvarez, M., and M. Favara (2023) "[Children having children: early motherhood and offspring human capital in India](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00148-023-00946-0)". Journal Population Economics, 36, 1573–1606 (2023); <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00148-023-00946-0>

2023 Wuni, R.; Ventura, E. F.; Curi-Quinto, K.; Murray, C.; Nunes, R.; Lovegrove, J. A.; Penny, M.; Favara, M.; Sanchez, A.; Santhanakrishnan Vimalaswaran K., (2023) "[Interactions between genetic and lifestyle factors on cardiometabolic disease-related outcomes in Latin American and Caribbean populations: A systematic review.](https://doi.org/10.3389/fnut.2023.1067033)", Frontiers in Nutrition, Vol. 10; <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnut.2023.1067033>

2022 Vega-Salas M. J., Curi-Quinto K., Hidalgo-Arístegui A., Meza-Carbajal K., Lago-Berrocal N., Arias L., Favara M., Penny M., Sánchez A., Santhanakrishnan Vimalaswaran K.,(2022). "[Development of an online food frequency questionnaire and estimation of misreporting of energy intake during the COVID-19 pandemic among young adults in Peru](https://doi.org/10.3389/fnut.2022.949330)", Frontiers in Nutrition, Vol.9, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnut.2022.949330>

2022 Porter, C., A. Hittmeyer, M. Favara, D. Scott, A. Sanchez (2022) "[The Evolution of Young People's Mental Health during COVID-19: Evidence from four Low-and-Middle-Income-Countries](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.puhip.2022.100232)", Public Health Practice (Oxf). doi: 10.1016/j.puhip.2022.100232.

- 2022 **Favara, M., R. Freund, C. Porter, A. Sanchez, D. Scott, (2022)** "[Young Lives interrupted: Effects of Covid-19 and containment policies on Adolescents in Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#)"; Journal of Development Studies; 5(6), 1063-1080, doi: 10.1080/00220388.2022.2029421.
- 2022 **Favara, M., A. Hittmeyer, C. Porter, S. Saurabh, T. Woldehanna (2022)** "[Young people, mental health, and civil conflict: Preliminary findings from Ethiopia's Tigray region](#)", Psychiatry Research Communications, Vol. 2, Issue 1, 2022, doi.org/10.1016/j.psychom.2022.100025.
- 2022 Chang, G., M. **Favara**, R. Novella (2022) "[The origins of cognitive skills and personality: the effect of in-utero climate shocks on adolescents and young adult life outcomes](#)", Economics & Human Biology, Vol. 44, doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2021.101089.
- 2021 Curi-Quinto K., Sánchez, A., Lago-Berrocal N., Penny, M., Murray, C., Nunes, R., **Favara, M.**, Wijeyesekera, A., Lovegrove, J., Soto-Cáceres, V., Karani, V. (2021) "[Role of Government Financial Support and Vulnerability Characteristics Associated with Food Insecurity during the COVID-19 Pandemic among Young Peruvians](#)". Nutrients, 13(10), <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu13103546>
- 2021 **Favara, M., G. Crivello, M. Penny, C. Porter, E. Revathi, A. Sánchez, D. Scott, L. D. Thuc, T. Woldehanna, A. McKay (2021)** "[Cohort Profile Update: The Young Lives Study](#)". International Journal of Epidemiology, Vol. 50 (21), 1784–1785e, doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyab111.
- 2021 Porter, C., M. **Favara**, A. Hittmeyer, et al., (2021) "[Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on anxiety and depression symptoms of young people in the Global South: evidence from a four-country cohort study](#)". BMJ Open 2021;11; doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2021-049653.
- 2021 Porter, C., M. **Favara**, A. Sanchez, D. Scott, (2021) "[The impact of COVID-19 lockdowns on the experience of domestic violence among young people in Peru: Evidence from a list randomization experiment](#)". Social Science and Medicine- Population Health, Vol. 14, June 2021, 100792; <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2021.100792>
- 2021 Ellanki R., **Favara M**, Le Thuc D. et al., "[Assessing the potential impact of coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) on the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\) outcomes: evidence from telephone surveys in the four Young Lives countries](#)". Emerald Open Res 2021, 3:15; <https://doi.org/10.35241/emeraldopenres.14263.1>
- 2020 Crivello, G.; **Favara, M.** (2020) "[COVID-19 and the 'Ethics of Disruption': Current Dilemmas Facing Longitudinal Research in Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#)". Methodological Innovation, Vol 14 (1), <https://doi.org/10.1177/2059799121994223>
- 2020 **Favara, M., P. Lavado and A. Sanchez (2020)**, "[Understanding teenage fertility, cohabitation, and marriage: the case of Peru](#)", Review of Development Economics, 24 (4); 1217-1236, Nov. 2020; <https://doi.org/10.1111/rode.12648>
- 2019 **Favara, M; C. Porter, T. Woldehanna (2019)**, "[Smarter through Social Protection? Evaluating the Impact of Ethiopia's Safety-Net on Child Cognitive Abilities](#)", Oxford Development Studies, 7 (1): 79-96; <https://doi.org/10.1080/13600818.2018.1499884>
- 2017 **Favara, M.** (2017), "[Do dreams come true? Aspirations and educational attainments of Ethiopian boys and girls](#)", Journal of African Economies, 26 (1); 561-583; <https://doi.org/10.1093/jae/ejx018>
- 2017 **Favara, M.** (2017), "[Maternal Social Participation and Children Nutritional Status In Peru](#)", Review of Development Economics, 22: 459–483; <https://doi.org/10.1111/rode.12363>
- 2017 **Favara, M. and A. Sanchez (2017)**, "[Psychosocial competencies and risky behaviors in Peru](#)", IZA Journal of Labor and Development, 6:3, Feb. 2017; <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40175-016-0069-3>.

Submitted (R&R and under review) journal articles

- [R&R- Economics of Education Review- Lopez, J., Behrman, J., Cueto, S., **Favara, M.**, Sanchez, A. (2022), "[Late-Childhood Foundational Cognitive Skills Predict Educational Outcomes Through Adolescence and Into Young Adulthood: Evidence from Ethiopia and Peru](#)", University of Pennsylvania Population Center Working Paper (PSC/PARC), 2022-100.
- [R&R – Journal of the Human Resources] Aguero J., M. **Favara**, C. Porter, A. Sanchez (2021) "[Do More School Resources Increase Learning Outcomes? Evidence from an Extended School-Day Reform](#)" (2021), IZA Discussion Papers 14240.
- [under review- Economic Development and Cultural Change] Freund R., M. **Favara**, C. Porter, D. Scott, D. Le Thuc (2022), "[The Mental Cost of Job Loss: Assessing the Impact on Young Adults in Vietnam](#)", IZA Discussion Papers 15522.
- [under review-European Economic Review] Perez-Alvarez, M., R. Freund, M. **Favara**. "[What If It Never Happened? Subjective Treatment Effects of a Negative Shock on Individual Labour Market Outcomes in Developing Countries](#)", IZA Discussion Papers 16417.
- [under review-Economics and Human Biology] Pazos, N., **Favara, M.**, Sanchez, A., Scott, D., Behrman, J., "[Long-term effect of rainfall shocks on foundational cognitive skills: evidence from Peru](#)". IZA Discussion Papers 15940.

- [under review-Journal of International Development] Scott, D., Freund, R., **Favara**, M., Porter, C. and Sánchez, A. “Don't Blame the Children: Rethinking the Post-lockdown Employment Recovery of Young Women in the Global South “. Early version : “[Unpacking the Post-lockdown Employment Recovery of Young Women in the Global South](#)”. IZA Discussion Paper Series, No. 14829, November 2021

Working papers

- **Favara** M., C. Porter, A. Hittmeyer, S. Saurabh, T. Woldehanna (2021) “*In the shadow of conflict: Estimating the impact of civil unrest in the Tigray region on Ethiopian young people’s symptoms of anxiety and depression*”.
- Sánchez, A., **Favara**, M., Porter, C. (2021), “[Stratification of Returns to Higher Education in Peru: The Role of Education Quality and Major Choices](#)”, IZA Discussion Papers 14339.
- **Favara** M., P. Glewwe, C. Porter, A. Sanchez (2021), “[Expecting better? How young people form their earnings expectations](#)”, IZA Discussion Papers 14289.
- **Favara**, M. (2012), “[The Cost of Acting ‘Girly’: Gender Stereotypes and Educational Choices](#)”, IZA Discussion Paper No. 7037, December 2012.
- **Favara**, M. (2013), “[Is Self-Esteem a “Double Edged Sword”? Self-Esteem and the Onset of Adolescent Sexual Activity](#)”, IZA Discussion Paper No. 7171, February 2013.
- **Favara** M., A. Sanchez (2019) “[Consequences of Teenage childbearing in Peru: is the extended-school-hour-program an effective policy instrument to prevent teenage pregnancy?](#)”, Young Lives Working Paper N. 185

Papers in progress

- Aurino E., M. Miraldo, C. Millet, M. **Favara** “*Manna from the sky? Rainfall shocks and gender inequality in adolescent dietary diversity*”.
- **Favara**, M, Pozuelo, J. R., “*How well informed are young people when making schooling decision in Ethiopia? Determinants of young people’s earning expectations in Ethiopia*”
- Doss, C., Chang, G., **Favara**, F. “*Youth in Agriculture: Choice or Lack of Opportunity*”.
- Favara, M., **Novella**, R. “*Filling-Up the Shopping Trolley: Improvements in Nutrient Intake and Remittances in Kosovo*”.

Books

- 2017 Darvas, P., M. **Favara** and T. Arnold, (2017) “[Stepping Up Skills in Ghana: Snapshot of the Step Skills Measurement Survey](#)”. Directions in Development. Washington, DC: World Bank.
- 2014 Darvas, P., **Favara**, M., Munares, G. (2014) “*Demand and Supply of Skills for Agriculture in Bandundu and Bas-Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo*”, World Bank, Washington, DC.
- 2012 Azevedo, J.P., M. **Favara**; S. E. Haddock; L. F. Lopez-Calva; M. Muller; E. Perova, “[Teenage Pregnancy and Opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean : On Teenage Fertility Decisions, Poverty and Economic Achievement](#)” (2012), World Bank, Washington, DC.

Book chapters

- 2018 **Favara**, M. and A. Sanchez, “La transición hacia el mercado laboral y los estudios postsecundarios en Perú: Evidencia del estudio Niños del Milenio”, Chapter 9 in “[Millennials en América Latina y el Caribe: trabajar o estudiar?](#), R. Novella, A. Repetto, C. Robino, G. Rucci, Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo. División de Mercados Laborales; <http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0001410#sthash.xhIkR8cO.dpuf>
- 2019 Cuevas, F., M. **Favara** and J. Rosero, “*Dimensiones psicosociales de la pobreza*” in “[Poverty Assessment-Reporte de Pobreza por Consumo in Ecuador 2006-2014](#)”, edited by Moncayo et al. 2016, published by Estudio Tematico INEC and The World Bank, April 2016.

(Selected) Reports

- 2022 Chacaltana, J., Chang, G., **Favara**, M., McKay, A. “[Youth labour market resilience during COVID-19 in low and middle-income countries](#)” ILO report; ISBN 978-92-2-036608-0.
- 2020 **Favara**, M., R. Ellanki, M. Molina, D. Scott, C. Porter, “[Listening to Young Lives at Work in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana: Headlines report, second phones survey call](#)”, Young Lives, November 2020
- 2020 Porter C., T. Woldehanna, R. Freund, M. **Favara**, D. Scott, “[Listening to Young Lives at Work in Ethiopia: Headlines report, second phones survey call](#)”, Young Lives, November 2020
- 2020 L. Duc, D. Scott, An. Hittmeyer, M.**Favara**, C. Porter, “[Listening to Young Lives at Work in Vietnam: Headlines report, first phones survey call](#)”, Young Lives, November 2020
- 2020 Scott D., M. **Favara**, C. Porter, “[Listening to Young Lives at Work in Vietnam: Headlines report, first phones survey call](#)”, Young Lives, August 2020
- 2020 Scott D., M. **Favara**, C. Porter, “[Listening to Young Lives at Work in Ethiopia: Headlines report, first phones survey call](#)”, Young Lives, August 2020

- 2020 Favara M., D. Scott, C. Porter, "[Listening to Young Lives at Work in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana: Headlines report, first phones survey call](#)", Young Lives, August 2020
- 2018 Favara, M., G. Chang and A. Sánchez, "[No longer children: What do Young Lives children do when they grow up? Transitions to post-secondary education and the labour market](#)", Research Report, Oxford: Young Lives.
- 2019 Favara, M., I. Appasamy and G. Marito, (2015) "*Nigeria: Education and Skills Policy Notes: Skills For Competitiveness And Employability*". World Bank, Washington, DC.
- 2008 Favara, M., "*Statistical Analysis on Migrant Students in High Schools of the Province of Genoa*", 2007, 2008, Italian Ministry of Education and Province of Genoa.

Research grants [ongoing]

- Wellcome Trust, "*Lifetime and Proximate Risk and Protective Factors for Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing: Young Lives seventh survey round*", Date: 01/04/2023-31/03/202; Role: PI. Total grant: £600k
- Old Dart Foundation, "*Niños del Milenio*" (Young Lives Peru) research and advocacy 2021-2025". Date: 01/07/2021-30/06/2025; Role: PI. Total grant: £1m
- Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Accountable Grant: "*Young Lives at Work*". Date: 31/12/2019-31/03/2025; Role: PI; Deputy Director. Total grant: £9.4m
- National Institute of Health (NIH), Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Award (R21): "*Foundational cognitive skills in low- and middle-income countries: early-life nutritional, climatic and policy determinants and impacts on adolescent education, socio-emotional competencies and risky behaviors*". PI: Jere Behrman (UPenn). Role: Co-PI. Date: 31/01/2019-31/08/2023; Total grant: £278k
- Medical Research Council, UK - Peru: Relationship between food, Nutrition & Health: "*Nutrition, Lifestyle, Genes and Metabolome - A Biosocial Cohort Study of Obesity in Young Adults from Urban Peru*". Date: 01/04/2019-31/03/2023; PI: Vimal Karani (University of Reading). Role: Co- PI. Total grant: £1.1m

Research grants [completed]

- ESRC/GCRF Skills and Education, "*Inequality of opportunity in Peru: How can young people develop relevant skills and find decent employment in a rapidly changing labour market?*". Date: 01/12/2018-31/03/2021; PI: Catherine Porter, Heriot-Watt University; Role: Co-PI. Total grant: £283k
- Old Dart Foundation, "*Niños del Milenio*" (Young Lives Peru) research and advocacy 2018-2021". Date: 01/07/2018-30/06/2021; Role: Co-PI (Oxford PI). Total grant: £400k
- Oxford Martin School, "*Governing African Transitions*", PIs: S. Dercon, R. Soares de Oliveira, Oxford University. Date: 01/01/2018-01/01/2020. Role: Investigator. Total grant: £655k
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Canada), "*A Comparative Study of Child Marriage and Parenthood in Ethiopia, India, Peru and Zambia*", PI: G. Crivello, Oxford University. Date: 01/01/2018-11/01/2019; Role: Investigator. Total grant: £266k
- UK Global Challenges Research Fund- Global Mental Health Research; "*The influence of Executive Function on Mental Health in vulnerable adolescents: a multi-site LMICs approach*", PI: C.R. Newton, Oxford University. Date: 02/01/2018-02/01-2019 Role: Investigator. Total grant: £267k
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Canada), "*Millennials: Enhancing opportunities for vulnerable youth in Latin America*". Date: 03/01/2017-08/01/2018; Role: PI. Total grant: £28k
- The World Bank- Early Learning Partnership Programme, "*Early Childhood development and Skills development in Ethiopia, India, Peru, Vietnam*". Date: 01/01/2016-12/31/2016, Role: PI. Total grant: £32k
- William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, "*Changing women's lives in social context: economic growth, cultural norms and the dynamics of gender inequality in Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam*". Date: 01/01/2015-09/01/2016, Role: Investigator. Oxford component: £460k

Awards

- OxTALENT annual reward 2018, Data visualization, University of Oxford, 2018
- Reward and Recognition for Innovation and Research Excellence, Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford, 2018
- Best Project Award on "Job", The World Bank, "Fostering Measurement Innovation", in collaboration with the Ecuador National Institute of Statistic, 2014
- Best Project Award on "Innovation", The World Bank, "Text Me Maybe- Preventing teenage pregnancy in the Municipality of Quito", 2013
- Staff Awards for the most Innovative and Policy-impactful project, The World Bank's Vice Presidency, 2013
- UWIN Best paper in Gender Economics, Unicredit and Universities Foundation, 2012.

Other grants awarded

- 2016-19 *Oppenheimer Research Grant*, University of Oxford, 2016-2017, 2017-2018 2018-2019
2009 Research grant by *Fondazione Tovini*, Cultural Institution (Brescia, Italy).
2010 Research Conference Travel Fund by University of Essex, 2010.
2008 Research grant by *Centro Studi Medì*, International migration studies center (Genoa, Italy).
2008 Research grant by *Fondazione Rui*, Ministry of Education (Genoa, Italy).
2008 PhD scholarship by *Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)*, covering 3-years PhD fees.

Refereeing

Journals: World Development; Economic & Human Biology; Social Science and Medicine; Review of Development Economics; Journal of African Economics; Journal of Development Economics; CESIFO Economic Studies; Journal of Adolescence.

Grants reviewer: Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

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