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Office Contact Information

Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio)
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Current Employment

Assistant Professor, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio) – from September 2022
Post-doctoral Researcher, Institute for Economic Analysis (IAE-CSIC) and Barcelona School of Economics (BSE) – from September 2019 to August 2023
Affiliated Professor, Barcelona School of Economics (BSE) – from September 2019 to August 2023

Education:

PhD in Economics (Magna Cum Laude), Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (Spain), 2019
Thesis: “Essays in Education and Intergenerational Inequality
Advisors: Jan Stuhler and Ricardo Mora
Committee: Daniele Paserman (Boston University), Fernanda Estevan (São Paulo School of Economics, Luigi Minale (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid)

M.A. in Economic Analysis, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (Spain), 2015
Thesis: “Cash Transfers and Gender Differences in a Context of Female Vulnerability: Evidence from Yemen”
Advisor: Ricardo Mora

B.A. in Economics, Federal University of Minas Gerais (Brazil), 2013
Thesis: “Poverty, Policy and Opportunities: Recent Development and an Application for Brazilian Municipalities”
Advisor: Ana Maria Hermeto

Visiting Positions

Visiting PhD Researcher, Duke University (USA), Spring 2018
Visiting PhD Researcher, UNDP International Policy Center for Inclusive Growth (Brazil), Summer 2017
Visiting Undergraduate Student, Université de Liège (Belgium), Spring 2011
Visiting Undergraduate Student, Peking University (China), July 2010

Research Fields:

Primary: Economics of Education, Labor Economics
Secondary: Development Economics, Applied Economics

Publications

“Affirmative Action and the Choice of Schools”, *Journal of Public Economics*, vol.2019, March 2023, 104824.

“Centralized Admissions, Affirmative Action and Access of Low-income Students to Higher Education”, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 2022, vol. 14, n.3.

Working Papers

“Trade-induced Local Labor Market Shocks and Asymmetric Income Risk” (with Tomás Martínez) (Barcelona GSE Working Paper Series 1230) (R&R, *International Economic Review*)

“A Life-cycle Estimator for Intergenerational Mobility” (with M. Nybom and J. Stuhler) (IFAU Working Paper 2022:21) (R&R, *Review of Economics and Statistics*)

“Affirmative Action and Demand for Schooling: Evidence from Nation-wide Policies” (with Ana Paula Melo)

“Affirmative Action and Racial Identity” (with Ana Paula Melo and Alei Santos)

“Top Incomes and the Sources of Lifecycle Inequality” (with Tomás Martínez)

Book Chapters

Loureiro, Andre; Louise Cruz & **Ursula Mello (2021)**. Brazil Case Study. In: “Al-Samarrai, Samer; Lewis, Blane. 2021. The Role of Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers in Improving Education Outcomes. *International Development in Focus*; Washington, DC: World Bank. © World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35838> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.”

Mello, Ursula & Adriano Senkevics (2020). Undergraduate Degrees at Federal Universities Before and After the Quota Law [In Portuguese: Os Cursos de Graduação das Universidades Federais Antes e Depois da Lei de Cotas] In: Barbosa, M.L. *A Expansão Desigual do Ensino Superior*. Curitiba, Editora Appris.

Technical Report

Soares, F.; D. Sawyer, C. Heinrich, L. Souza, R. Schwengber, D. Silva, C. Rodrigues, C. Ferraz, M. Vieira, **U. Mello**, P. Yoong, B. Lanza, M. Ferreira (2014). Yemen National Social Protection and Monitoring Survey (NSPMS): 2012-2013 – Final Report. IPC-IG & UNICEF Yemen. Brasília, Brazil.

Policy Research (in Portuguese)

Mello, Ursula & Adriano Senkevics (2019). Did the Profile of Students in Federal Higher Education Institutions Change After the Quota Law? [In Portuguese: O perfil dos estudantes nas instituições federais mudou após a Lei de Cotas?] *Cadernos de Pesquisa*, v.49, n. 172, p. 184-208.

Mello, Ursula & Adriano Senkevics (2018). Data and Indicators for Monitoring the Quota Law [In Portuguese: Panorama de Dados e Indicadores para o Monitoramento da Lei de Cotas.] *Cadernos de Estudos e Pesquisas em Políticas Educacionais*. INEP, Ed.1, pg. 275-300.

Honors, Scholarships, Fellowships and Research Grants:

2021-2023 AXA Postdoctoral Fellowship “Public Policies for Tackling Inequality” (PI, 140.000 euros)

- 2021 Barcelona GSE Seed Grant “Lifetime Earnings Inequality and Intergenerational Transmission in the Top of the Distribution” (PI, 8.100 euros)
- 2020 Barcelona GSE Seed Grant “Heterogenous impacts of local labor market shocks on gender inequality over the life cycle” (PI, 6.000 euros)
- 2019 UC3M Extraordinary Prize of PhD Thesis
- 2015-2019 FPU Scholarship, Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture
- 2018 FPU Mobility Grant (declined)
- 2018 UC3M Mobility Grant
- 2015-2016 Excellence Scholarship from the City of Madrid
- 2016 Vice Dean Letter for Excellence in Teaching (UC3M, Course of Policy Evaluation)
- 2013-2015 Graduate Program Scholarship, UC3M
- 2013 Honorable Mention for Prize of Best Bachelor Thesis in the State of Minas Gerais
- 2010 Santander Mobility Scholarship for Visiting Program in China

Other Research Experience:

- 2021 World Bank Educational Global Practice, Consultant to project “Amazonia Education Memorandum” (Brasília, Brazil)
- 2020 World Bank Educational Global Practice, Consultant to project “The Role of Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers in Improving Education Outcomes” (Brasília, Brazil)
- 2020 World Bank Educational Global Practice, Consultant to project “Supporting the State of Ceará Education Response to COVID-19” (Brasília, Brazil)
- 2020 United Nations Commission for Africa, Consultant to project “Distortions, Productivity and Employment Creation in Morocco” (Rabat, Morocco)
- Summer 2019 World Bank Educational Global Practice, Consultant to project “The Gender Gap in the Choice of STEM courses: Evidence from Higher Education Enrollment in Brazil” (Brasília, Brazil)
- 2016-2018 World Bank Development Research Group, Consultant to project “Subjective Well-being and Local Inequality: Results from Around the World” (Washington, DC)
- Summer 2015 Inter-American Development Bank, Research Assistant to the Country Department of Central America and the Dominican Republic, project “Social Expenditure in Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic” (Washington, DC)
- 2012-2013 UNDP International Policy Center for Inclusive Growth, Research Assistant to project “Yemen National Social Protection and Monitoring Survey” (Brasília, Brazil)
- 2010 Center for Development and Regional Planning, Research Assistant in Health Economics (Belo Horizonte, Brazil)

Research Seminars and Invited Talks:

- 2023 UAB Internal Seminar, PUC-Rio Applied Micro Workshop, Insper, University of São Paulo

2022	PIMES/UFPE, UFF, CEDEPLAR-UFGM, Catholic University of Brasilia, INEP, 3 rd GeFAM Meeting CLEAR Special Session, UFPEL, FGV-EESP.
2021	Uppsala University, IAE-CSIC, PUC-Rio (2x), University of Brasilia, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, LISER, UEPG, Insper
2020	University of Barcelona, Applied Young Economist Webinar
2019	PUC-Rio, World Bank Brazil, Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI), Stockholm University, Universidad Carlos III, 17 th Barcelona GSE Trobada, IAE-CSIC
2018	National Institute for Educational Studies and Research (INEP), UC3M Job Market Seminar
2017	International Policy Center for Inclusive Growth, UC3M PhD Seminar
2016	UC3M PhD Seminar
2015	UC3M PhD Seminar

Conferences:

2023	Third Catalan Economic Society Meeting (scheduled)
2022	Spring Meeting of Young Economists, 4 th Queen Mary PhD and Postdoc Workshop, II IEB Workshop on Public Policies, UN-WIDER Development Conference
2021	Brazilian Econometric Society Webinar, Royal Economic Society Meeting, “ifo Conference on Opportunities, Mobility and Wellbeing”, University of Brasilia, GEP/CEPR Education Economics Workshop, 25 th Spring Meeting of Young Economists, European Society of Population Economics, 43 rd Meeting of the Brazilian Econometric Society
2020	Brazilian Econometric Society Webinar, EALE/SOLE World Conference, Warsaw International Economic Meeting, ifo Workshop on Causal Analysis of School Reforms, 42 nd Meeting of the Brazilian Econometric Society, European Econometric Society Winter Meeting
2019	Enter Jamboree (Discussant), HCEO SSSI Bergen (Poster), “Inequality, Education and Intergenerational Mobility Workshop (Hamburg)”
2018	IZA Summer School in Labor Economics, Spring Meeting of Young Economists (U. Balearic Islands)
2016	ENTER Jamboree (Discussant)
2015	Gender & Development Conference (U. Namur)

Invited Policy Talks:

2022	Round table: “Access and expansion of higher education: 10 years of the Quota Law”, Federal Audit Office, Government of Brazil.
2022	IDB/IMDS “Evaluation and the future of Affirmative Action in Brazil”
2020	Race-based Affirmative Action in Brazil Workshop
2020	Affirmative Action Working Group

Media Articles:

Mello, Ursula & Adriano Senkevics (2022). Which undergraduate courses changed the most due to the quotas? [In Portuguese: Quais cursos de graduação foram mais transformados pelas cotas?] Nexo Políticas Públicas, 17/08/2022.

Mello, Ursula & Adriano Senkevics (2022). The federal universities after the quotas [In Portuguese: As universidades federais depois das cotas] *Nexo Políticas Públicas*, 16/02/2022.

Media Mentions (Articles in newspapers and magazines that mention my research)

2023	<i>O Globo</i> Newspaper (27/03/2022)
2022	<i>Nexo</i> Newspaper (01/09/2022), <i>Folha de São Paulo</i> Newspaper (28/08/2022), <i>O Globo</i> Newspaper (24/07/2022), BBC News Brasil (15/07/2022), <i>Brazilian Report</i> (10/03/2022), <i>Instituto Claro</i> Website (03/03/2022)
2021	<i>Fapesp</i> Magazine (01/10/2021), <i>Folha de São Paulo</i> Newspaper (26/06/2021), <i>BSE in Focus</i> (15/06/2021)
2020	BBC News Brasil (29/12/2020), UOL Website (29/12/2020), <i>Veja</i> Magazine (20/08/2020)
2019	<i>Valor Econômico</i> Newspaper (10/06/2019), <i>Valor Econômico</i> Newspaper (15/02/2019)

Teaching Experience

At PUC-Rio:

2023-present	Causal Inference, Master/PhD in Economics, Instructor
2022-present	Labor Economics, Master/PhD in Economics, Instructor

At the Barcelona School of Economics:

2022, 2023	Empirical Topics in Inequality, Master in Economics of Public Policy, Instructor
2020, 2021	Political Economy, Master in Economics of Public Policy, Instructor (joint with H.Mueller)

At Universidad Carlos III de Madrid:

2016 –2019	Coordinator of PhD Students' Seminars and Exchange Network
Fall, 2017	Introduction to Stata (English), Master in Development Economics, Instructor
Spring, 2017	Microeconomics II (English), PhD in Economics, TA for Prof. José Luis Ferreira
Spring, 2017	Government Policy Evaluation (English and Spanish), Undergrad, TA for Professors Jan Stuhler and Jesus Carro
Fall, 2016	Game Theory (English), Undergrad, TA for Professor José Luis Ferreira
Fall, 2016	Introduction to Stata (English), Master in Development Economics, Instructor
Spring, 2016	Microeconomics II (English), PhD in Economics, TA for Prof. José Luis Ferreira
Spring, 2016	Government Policy Evaluation (English and Spanish), Undergrad, TA for Professors Jan Stuhler and Jesus Carro
Fall, 2015	Introduction to Stata (English), Master in Development Economics, Instructor
Spring, 2015	Government Policy Evaluation (English), Undergrad, TA for Prof. Jan Stuhler
Fall, 2014	Labor Economics (English), Undergrad, TA for Prof. Alfonso Alba

At Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais:

2012 Undergraduate TA of Advanced Microeconomics
2010 Undergraduate TA of Introductory Microeconomics

Referee Service: Empirical Economics (2023), Journal of Human Resources (2023), Economics of Education Review (2022), Labour Economics (2022), PLOS One (2022), Economic Letters (2022), Journal of Public Economics (2022), American Economic Journal: Applied Economics (2022), Journal of Human Resources (2022), Labour Economics (2021), Economic Journal (2020), Journal of Public Economics (2020), Economics of Education Review (2020), Review of Economic Dynamics (2020), Economics and Human Biology (2019), Review of Economics of the Household (2019), *Pesquisa e Planejamento Econômico* (2021).

Scientific Committee: European Econometric Society Summer Meeting (2023), 44th Congress of the Brazilian Econometric Society (2022), 41th Congress of the Brazilian Econometric Society (2019), 25th Spring Meeting of Young Economists (2020), 26th Spring Meeting of Young Economists (2021), 41th Congress of the Brazilian Econometric Society (2022)

Thesis Committees: PhD in Economics PUC-Rio 2022 (Amanda Albuquerque); PhD in Economics EESP/FGV 2022 (Otávio Conceição); Master in Economics PUC-Rio 2022 (Gabriel Jardim); Master in Economics UAB 2021 (Jorge Batanero; Ignasi Merediz; Maria Navarro; Ngo Thanh; Sergi Quintana; Sebastian Zalas)

Current Advising: Ísis Ferreira (PhD in Economics, PUC-Rio), Pedro D'Angelo (Master in Economics, PUC-Rio), Bruno Daré (Master in Economics, PUC-Rio)

Seminar/Conference Organization: PUC-Rio Applied Internal Seminar (2023), Bellaterra Applied Seminar (2021-2022), IAE Internal Seminar (2020-2021)

Department Service: PhD selection committee (PUC-Rio, 2022).

Other Employment:

2011-2012 Araújo Fontes Investment Boutique, M&A Intern (Belo Horizonte, Brazil)

Other Skills and Miscellanea:

Languages: English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), Portuguese (native), Italian and French (intermediate)

Nationality: Brazilian and Italian

Programming: Stata, LaTeX

Volunteering: Logosophical Foundation for Self-betterment (since 2015)

References:

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