

# Diego De la Fuente Stevens

I study the economics of education and labour markets in developing countries, using quasi-experimental methods to examine human capital formation, conflict-affected settings, and indigenous communities, primarily in Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa.

## Contact

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## Education

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**PhD in Economics**, University of Sussex (2017–2021)

*Thesis: Empirical Essays in Labour and Education Economics*

**MRes in Economics**, University College London (2016–2017). with *Merit*

**MSc in Economic Policy**, University College London (2015–2016). with *Distinction*

**MSc in Philosophy and Economics**, London School of Economics and Political Science (2014–2015)

**BSc in Economics**, ITAM (2007–2012). with *Special Honours*

## Current employment

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**Assistant Professor**, Department of Economics, University of Sussex (2021 – Present).

**Research Affiliate**, IZA Institute of Labor Economics (2026 – Present).

### Course Director

- BA Economics and International Development
- BSc Economics and Sustainable Development

### School-wide Doctoral Tutor Lead.

**Researcher** Regional Teachers Initiative for Africa (RTIA), at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) (2025 – Present).

## Past Employment (Selected)

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**Lead Quantitative Researcher** Conducted data-driven research part of Institute of Development Studies-led consortium in partnership with Institut Supérieur Pédagogique de Bukavu, Save the Children, and the European Commission. Collaborated with cross-disciplinary research teams and education stakeholders in DRC and Niger to produce evidence in conflict-affected settings. (2021–2022).

**Policy Adviser**, Health Minister of Mexico and Vice-Chancellor of UNAM, José Narro Robles. Advised on social policy design; contributed to national-level policy documents on poverty, inequality, and public education in Mexico. (2012–2014)

**Researcher in Economics**, Centre for Economic Research, ITAM (2011–2012). Projects: (i) “Exporters During the Trade Collapse: The Resiliency of the Small Exporter.” and (ii) “Assortative Matching of Exporters and Importers.”

## Publications (Peer-Reviewed)

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de la Fuente Stevens, D., Falaise, JB., and Marchais, G. and Matabishi, S. (2025) “**The Mental Health Toll of Conflict-Induced Violence on Teachers: evidence from the DRC and Niger**”. *British Medical Journal: Public Health* 3(2).

de la Fuente Stevens, D. (2025). “**Remittance Income and Crime in Mexico**” *Review of Development Economics*. 30(2), 1299–1316.

Brandt, C., de la Fuente Stevens, D., Falaise, JB., Gupta, S., Kanyerhera, D., Marchais, G., Marion, P., Matabishi, S. and Safari Nyandinda, I. (2025). “**Violence Against Teachers and the Entanglement of Schools in Violent Conflict in Eastern DRC**” *Comparative Education Review*, 69(1), 39-61.

de la Fuente Stevens, Diego, and Pelkonen, Panu (2023). “**Economics of Minority Languages: Labour Market Returns and Transmission of Indigenous Languages.**”. *World Development*, 162, 106096. (Previously IZA Discussion Paper).

## Papers Under Review

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de la Fuente Stevens, D. (2026) “**Compulsory Schooling, Life Trajectories, and Inter-generational Mobility in Mexico**” (Resubmitted. *World Development*)

## Selected Working Papers

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de la Fuente Stevens, D., del Pozo Segura, JM., Fagernäs, S. and Pelkonen, P. (2025) “**Public Gains, Private Strains: Public Investment and Private Schooling in Peru**”.

*IZA Discussion Paper. Under submission.*

de la Fuente Stevens, D. and Pelkonen, P. **“Building Nations or Protecting Diversity? Conflicting Aims in Language Policy and the Case of Mexico”** *(In preparation, 2026)*

de la Fuente Stevens, D. and Marchais, G. **“Why Do Teachers Leave? Evidence from Panel Data in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Niger”** *(In preparation, 2026)*

de la Fuente Stevens, D. **“Intergenerational Persistence of Education Among Indigenous Groups in Mexico.”** *(In preparation, 2026)*

## Other Publications

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Brandt, C., de la Fuente Stevens, D., Falaise, J.B., Gupta, S., Marchais, G., Marion, P., Matabishi, S., Tahirou, S., and Kanyerhera, D. (2024). **Teachers’ Well-being and Resilience in the Face of Violence: Lessons from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Niger.** Chapter 3 in *Teachers’ well-being and resilience in the face of violence.* Bristol University Press.

Winner of the *Jackie Kirk Outstanding book* prize by the Comparative and international education society.

Brandt, C., de la Fuente Stevens, D., Falisse, J.B., Gupta, S., Kiemtoré, I., Justino, P., Marchais, G., Marion, P., Mutulani Bijavu, C., Nyabagaza, P., Tahirou, T., and West, D. (2022). **“BRiCE Project DRC and Niger (Endline Report): Teacher Wellbeing and Teaching Quality in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Contexts”** *Institute of Development Studies.*

de la Fuente Stevens, D. and de la Fuente Hernández, J. (2014). **“Economic Development: Poverty, Inequality and Health in Mexico.”** Chapter 4 in *Human and territorial challenges in Mexico* (Spanish).

de la Fuente Stevens, D., (2014) **“Agricultural Land Productivity and Trade Liberalization: Mexico under NAFTA”** *Theoretical Economic Letters* 4, pp. 221-231.

de la Fuente Stevens, D. and Narro Robles, J. & Moctezuma, D. (2013). **“Setbacks and Challenges for Social Policy in Mexico”** *Problemas del Desarrollo* 74(174) pp. 9 - 31.

## Conference participation

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**2024** European Association for Labour Economists (EALE), Bergen, Norway. **2021** Festival of Economic Research, University of Sussex, United Kingdom. **2020** Annual World

Conference in Economics EALE-SOLE-AASLE, Berlin, Germany. Economics Presentation Series, Brighton, United Kingdom. **2019** IZA Workshop on Labour Markets, St. Petersburg, Russia. Royal Holloway, Egham, United Kingdom. Cambridge University, Cambridge, United Kingdom. **2018** London School of Economics, United Kingdom. Royal Economic Society Annual Junior Researcher Symposium, United Kingdom.

## Refereeing

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British Medical Journal, World Development, Review of Development Economics, Education Economics, IZA Journal of Development and Migration, Journal of Economic Inequality

## Teaching

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### University of Sussex (2017-Present)

Finance for Development (graduate)  
Introduction to Quantitative Analysis (graduate)  
Climate Change Economics (undergraduate)  
Advanced Macroeconomics (undergraduate)  
Economics of Crime (undergraduate)

### Cambridge Coaching (2017-2020)

Public Economics, Macroeconomics and Econometrics.

## Grants, Awards and Scholarships

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*Forthcoming* — *Leverhulme Trust Small Research Grant (under preparation)*

Winner of the *Jackie Kirk Outstanding book* prize by the Comparative and international education society. For work on **Teachers' Well-being and Resilience in the Face of Violence: Lessons from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Niger**. Chapter 3 in *Teachers' well-being and resilience in the face of violence*. Bristol University Press.

2021 Royal Economic Society. Doctoral Grant.

2020 Annual Teaching Award - University of Sussex, Department of Economics.

2014-2015, 2018-2020 National Science and Technology Council (CONACYT).

2018-2020 University of Sussex, Departmental Scholarship.

2014-2015 Education Foundation (FUNED).

2014-2015 Fund for the Development of Human Resources, Banco de México (FIDERH).

## Other Information

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**Software:** R, Stata, Matlab

**Languages:** English (Fluent), Spanish (Native), Italian (Basic)

**Citizenships:** Mexico and USA. **Visa:** UK (Settled Status)