

Carlos Villalobos

DR. IN ECONOMICS · ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

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“Economics is not Causal it is Epistemic”

Education

University of Göttingen

DOCTOR OF ECONOMICS (DR. RER. POL.)

Göttingen, Germany

Graduated 2012

- Thesis: [Economic Inequality in Latin America: Migration, Education, and Structural Change](#)
- Included: Methodensommer GGG (Methods Summer School), (GGG), Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI), University of Oxford

SUMMER SCHOOL ON MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY ANALYSIS

Oxford, UK

July 2018

- Focus on multidimensional poverty measurement and analysis

United Nations University - World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER)

INTERNSHIP IN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS

Helsinki, Finland

2011

- Project: Migration, Inequality and Poverty in Latin American Countries

Facultad de Economía y Negocios, Universidad de Talca

INGENIERO COMERCIAL (MAJOR IN ECONOMICS)

Talca, Chile

1998 – 2004

- Distinción Máxima
- Included Long-term International Exchange Program (2001-2002) at the Faculty of Economic Sciences, University of Göttingen, Germany

Research Areas

Poverty Analysis

Poverty Measurement, Monetary and Multidimensional Poverty, Redundancy

Public Finance

Fiscal Capacity, Unconditional Transfers, Flypaper Effect

Energy Economics

Energy Poverty, Cross-subsidy Analysis, Measurement Redundancy

Health Economics

Emergency Nutrition, Malnutrition Analysis, Estimation of COVID-19 prevalence, Measurement

Development Economics

Income Inequality, Migration, Impact Evaluation of Vocational Training Programs

Structural Epistemology

Belief Formation and Adaptation in Complex Systems, Epistemic Health, System Endogeneity

Skills

Languages

Spanish (Native), English (Fluent, C2), German (Fluent, C2), Portuguese (Reading Proficiency)

Software & Programming

LaTeX, Microsoft Office Suite, Stata (Proficient), R (Proficient)

Current Projects

Fondecyt Regular

Governance, the political economy of intergovernmental transfers, and the flypaper effect

Fondecyt Regular

Prevalence, incidence, and risk factors of elder mistreatment in older adults. A cohort study

CORFO-CODESSER-UTALCA

H_2V Empowering Productive Sectors with Green Hydrogen in the Araucanía Region - Chile

Awards & Recognitions

ACADEMIC AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

2013	Young Researcher Best Paper Award , International Society for Comparative Economic Studies	Antwerpen, Belgium
2006	Ph.D. Scholarship , FIC-CONICYT, Chile	
2001	DAAD Scholarship "Engineering Program" , German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) & Chilean Universities	Germany
1998	Academic Excellence Scholarship , Universidad de Talca	Chile

INVITED ROLES & EXPERT CONTRIBUTIONS

2022	Keynote Speaker, "Multidimensional Poverty Analysis" , Knowledge Sharing Session, Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank (FMO)	Netherlands
2021	International Adviser , Academics Stand Against Poverty (ASAP), Venezuelan Chapter	Venezuela
2018	Workshop Instructor: AF method and multidimensional poverty analysis , X Encuentro Anual de la Sociedad Chilena de Estudios Regionales (SOCHER)	UCN San Pedro de Atacama

ACADEMIC SERVICE & COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

-	Peer Reviewer for Doctoral Programs , National Accreditation Commission (CNA), Chile	
-	Peer Reviewer , National Agency for Research and Development (ANID), Chile	
2025	Member, Evaluation Group for Fondecyt Regular Projects , Inter Trans Disciplinary Group, ANID (National Agency for Research and Development)	Chile
2020	Scientific Committee Member , Arnoldshain Seminar XVII & 9th Meeting on International Economics	Villarreal and Alicante, Spain
2021	Coordinator for Maule Region , Chilean Energy Poverty Network (RedPE)	Chile

Journal Publications

Household constraints and dysfunctional rural-urban migration.

2023	Villalobos, C. * & J. Riquelme ECONOMIC POLICY AND ANALYSIS, 78, pp. 1070-1088.
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• DOI: [10.1016/j.eap.2023.04.016](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eap.2023.04.016)

Degree of association between healthcare indicators and poverty measures in Chile over the period 1992-2017.

2021	González, L. & Villalobos, C. * REVISTA MEDICA DE CHILE, 149(5), pp. 779-789.
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• DOI: [10.4067/s0034-98872021000500779](https://doi.org/10.4067/s0034-98872021000500779)

A Retrospective Analysis of Stunting and Wasting in Venezuelan Children from 2017 to 2020: Programming Implications for a Protracted Crisis.

2021	Raffalli, S.* & Villalobos, C. * FRONTIERS IN SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS, 5, 638042.
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• DOI: [10.3389/fsufs.2021.638042](https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2021.638042)

Energy poverty measures and the identification of the energy poor: A comparison between the utilitarian and multidimensional approaches in Chile.

2021	Villalobos, C. *, C. Chavez & A. Uribe ENERGY POLICY, 152, 112146 (May 2021).
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• DOI: [10.1016/j.enpol.2021.112146](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2021.112146)

Journal Publications *(continuation)*

Diverging identification of the poor: A non-random process. Chile 1992–2017.

2020

S. Klasen & Villalobos, C. *

WORLD DEVELOPMENT, 130, 104944

(June 2020).

• DOI: [10.1016/j.worlddev.2020.104944](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2020.104944)

SARS-CoV-2 Infections in the World: An Estimation of the Infected Population and a Measure of How Higher Detection Rates Save Lives.

2020

Villalobos, C. *

FRONTIERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH, 8, p. 489.

• DOI: [10.3389/fpubh.2020.00489](https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2020.00489)

Assessing disaster capitalism in post-disaster processes in Chile: neoliberal reforms and the role of the corporate class.

2020

V. Sandoval, C. González-Muzzio,

Villalobos, C. & J. P. Sarmiento

DISASTER PREVENTION AND

MANAGEMENT, 29(6).

• DOI: [10.1108/DPM-01-2020-0005](https://doi.org/10.1108/DPM-01-2020-0005)

Distribution dynamics of Human Development in Mexico 1990–2010.

2016

Villalobos-Barría, C. *, S. Klasen &

S. Vollmer

REVIEW OF INCOME AND WEALTH, 62(\$1),

pp. 47-67.

• DOI: [10.1111/roiw.12220](https://doi.org/10.1111/roiw.12220)

The Impact of SENAI's vocational training program on employment, wages, and mobility in Brazil: Lessons for Sub Saharan Africa?

2016

Villalobos Barría, C. * & S. Klasen

THE QUARTERLY REVIEW OF ECONOMICS

AND FINANCE, 62, pp. 74-96.

• DOI: [10.1016/j.qref.2016.07.010](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.qref.2016.07.010)

Books

Economic Inequality in Latin America: Migration, Education, and Structural Change

2013

Villalobos Barría, Carlos

Peter Lang, Frankfurt am Main

• Series: Göttingen Studies in Development Economics (Edited by Hermann Sautter and Stephan Klasen).

Book Chapters

The Dynamics of Poverty and Inequality in Chile and Honduras over the past three decades.

2023

Villalobos, Carlos *

In: Research Handbook on Poverty and

Inequality, edited by U. Wagle.

• Edward Elgar Publishing, UK.

The Dynamics of Inequality Change in a Highly Dualistic Economy Honduras, 1991–2007.

2014

Villalobos Barría, Carlos * with

Stephan Klasen and Thomas Otter

In: The New Policy Model, Inequality and

Poverty in Latin America: Evidence from

the Last Decade and Prospects for the

Future, edited by A. Cornia.

• Oxford University Press.

Other Publications

Energy poverty measures and the identification of the energy poor: A comparison between the utilitarian and multidimensional approaches in Chile.

2019

Villalobos, Carlos* with Carlos Chávez and Adolfo Uribe

Discussion Paper 243, Ibero-America Institute for Economic Research (IAI), University of Göttingen, Germany.

Diverging identification of the poor: A non-random process. Chile 1992–2017.

2019

Klasen, S. and Villalobos, C.*

OPHI Working Paper 128, University of Oxford, UK.

Income Inequality in Europe: What role does gender inequality play?

2014

Villalobos, Carlos* with Stephan Klasen and Agnieszka Gehringer

ENECE Thematic Report, European Commission.

The Impact of SENAI's Vocational Training Programme on Employment, Wages, and Mobility in Brazil: What lessons for Sub-Saharan Africa?

2014

Villalobos, Carlos* with Stephan Klasen

IRIBA Working Paper 5, University of Manchester, UK.

Structural Change, Duality and the Disadvantaged rural population.

2014

Villalobos, Carlos*

Mimeo.

- Young Researcher Best Paper Award 2013 – International Society for Comparative Economic Studies

Internal Migration and its Impact on Reducing Inter-communal Disparities in Chile.

2012

Villalobos, Carlos*

Discussion Paper 220, Ibero-America Institute for Economic Research (IAI), University of Göttingen, Germany.

Sectorial shifts and Inequality. How to relate macroeconomic events to inequality changes.

2012

Villalobos, Carlos*

Discussion Paper 219, Ibero-America Institute for Economic Research (IAI), University of Göttingen, Germany.

The Dynamics of Inequality Change in a Highly Dualistic Economy: Honduras, 1991–2007.

2012

Villalobos, Carlos* with Stephan Klasen and Thomas Otter

UNU-WIDER Working Papers Series, 2012/17.

Past Academic Research Projects

FONDEF Project: Maltrato Estructural del Adulto Mayor

Universidad de Talca (Implied)

2016–2017

Chile

- Funding: \$200,000 USD
- Co-Investigator: Responsible for the methodological proposal for the creation of the Multidimensional Index of Elder Abuse

Project: Rising Income Inequality in Europe: What role does gender inequality play?

*University of Goettingen, for the
European Network of Experts on
Gender Equality (ENEGE) / European
Commission
European Union*

2014–2015

- Funding: €25,000
- Principal Investigator: Stephan Klasen
- Team: Agnieszka Gähringer; Carlos Villalobos

Project: Is Brazil's success a bright light for Africa?

*University of Manchester, for the UK
Government's Department for
International Development (DFID)
Manchester, UK*

2013–2016

- Funding: £1.2 million
- Project URL: www.brazil4africa.org
- Co-investigator

Project: The New Policy Model, Inequality and Poverty in Latin America: Evidence from the Last Decade and Prospects for the Future

*United Nations University World
Institute for Development
Economics Research (UNU-WIDER)
Helsinki, Finland*

2012–2014

- Co-investigator

Project: Structure, Trends and Determinants of Welfare Distribution

*University of Göttingen, for the
German Research Foundation (DFG)
Göttingen, Germany*

2012–2015

- Co-investigator

Project: Real consumption aggregate - Mongolia - HIES/LSMS 2002"

*German Institute for Economic
Research (DIW-BERLIN)
Berlin, Germany*

2010

- Co-investigator

Journal Referee Service

Regularly serve as a peer reviewer for international scientific journals, including: *Energy Policy*, *Scientific Reports*, *Journal of Economic Inequality*, *Energy Research & Social Science*, *Review of Income and Wealth*, *Frontiers in Public Health*, *Energy Efficiency*, *Environmental Science and Pollution*, *Heliyon*, *Latin American Politics and Society*, *Energy Economics*, and *Frontiers Psychology*.

Consultancy Projects

Consultant

2022

*Ministerio de Energía, Chile
Mesa Técnica de Pobreza Energética.*

Econometrics Consultant

2015

*USAID/Mercy Corps and ECI Gestión
para el Desarrollo Humano
Project: "Final Evaluation PROCOMIDA
project on food security and nutrition in
Alto Verapaz, Guatemala."*

Consultancy Projects *(continuation)*

Econometrics Consultant

2015

Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and ECI Gestión para el Desarrollo Humano

Project: Proxy Means Testing for social programs in Barbados.

Econometrics and Social Protection System Consultant

2015

Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation, Belize and ECI Gestión para el Desarrollo Humano

Consultancy on econometrics and social protection systems.

Econometrics Consultant

2013

Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and ECI Gestión para el Desarrollo Humano

Project: Poverty mapping and targeting of social expenditure in the Bahamas.

Consultant

2012

The World Bank

Project: Study on the income inequality dynamics in Honduras 2007-2010.

Consultant

2012

UNICEF and ECI Gestión para el Desarrollo Humano

Project: Analyse the impact of projects funded under the Annual Investment Budget of the Kurdistan Regional Government on children

Consultant

2009

UNDP and ECI Gestión para el Desarrollo Humano

Project: Background Paper for RBLAC – Regional Human Development Report Latin America on Inequality Transmission.

Teaching Experience

GEORG-AUGUST UNIVERSITÄT GÖTTINGEN, GERMANY

Development Economics III

2015

Master in International Economics Program

Faculty of Economic Science, University of Göttingen, Germany

- Lecturer

Markets and Institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa

2015

Master in International Economics Program

Faculty of Economic Science, University of Göttingen, Germany

- Lecturer

Contemporary Macroeconomic Policy Issues in Emerging Market Economies

2015

Master in International Economics Program

Faculty of Economic Science, University of Göttingen, Germany

- Lecturer

Teaching Experience (continuation) ——— GEORG-AUGUST UNIVERSITÄT GÖTTINGEN, GERMANY

Panel Data Econometrics

2015

- Lecturer

*Doctoral Program on Applied
Statistics and Empirical Methods
Faculty of Economic Science, University
of Göttingen, Germany*

Advanced Microeconomics

2014

- Lecturer

*Master in Development Economics
Program
Faculty of Economic Science, University
of Göttingen, Germany*

Applied Macroeconomics

2014

- Lecturer

*Bachelor in Economics Program
Faculty of Economic Science, University
of Göttingen, Germany*

Macro-Economics and Banking Crises

2014

- Lecturer

*Master in International Economics
Program and Master in
Development Economics Program
Faculty of Economic Science, University
of Göttingen, Germany*

Money Banking and Finance

2014

- Lecturer

*Master in International Economics
Program and Master in
Development Economics Program
Faculty of Economic Science, University
of Göttingen, Germany*

Microeconomics

2013

- Lecturer

*Bachelor in Economics Program
Faculty of Economic Science, University
of Göttingen, Germany*

Teaching Experience ——— UNIVERSITÄT HEIDELBERG, GERMANY

Microeconomic Theory

2012 – PRESENT

- Guest Lecturer

*Mannheimer Institut für Public Health,
Sozial und Präventivmedizinische
Fakultät Mannheim der Universität
Heidelberg, Germany*

Teaching Experience ——— UNIVERSIDAD DE TALCA, CHILE

Advanced Microeconomics II

2018 – PRESENT

- Lecturer

*Ph.D. Program in Economics
Facultad de Economía y Negocios,
Universidad de Talca, Campus Talca,
Chile*

Teaching Experience (*continuation*) --- UNIVERSIDAD DE TALCA, CHILE

Analysis of Microdata

2018 – PRESENT

- Lecturer

Economics

2016 – PRESENT

- Lecturer

Industrial Organization

2016

- Lecturer

Finance I

2016

- Lecturer

Microeconomics

2016

- Lecturer

Macroeconomics

2016

- Lecturer

Ph.D. Program in Economics
Facultad de Economía y Negocios,
Universidad de Talca, Campus Talca,
Chile

Facultad de Economía y Negocios,
Universidad de Talca, Campus Talca,
Chile

Facultad de Economía y Negocios,
Universidad de Talca, Campus Santiago,
Chile

Facultad de Economía y Negocios,
Universidad de Talca, Campus Talca,
Chile

Facultad de Economía y Negocios,
Universidad de Talca, Campus Talca,
Chile

Facultad de Economía y Negocios,
Universidad de Talca, Campus Santiago,
Chile

Completed Supervised Theses ---

Fernanda Pino

2019

“Pobreza Infantil Multidimensional
en Chile. Propuesta de un indicador
Multidimensional para Chile.”
Magister en Economía, Universidad de
Talca, Chile

Jonathan Muñoz

2019

“Análisis de la desigualdad en el
contexto de la Pobreza
Multidimensional.”
Magister en Economía, Universidad de
Talca, Chile

Leonardo González

2019

“Impacto de la dimensión salud
dentro de la medición de pobreza
multidimensional.”
Magister en Gestion de Sistemas de
Salud, Universidad de Talca, Chile

Completed Supervised Theses (*continuation*)

Patricio Inzulza

2018

“Medición y Análisis de la dinámica de pobreza multidimensional en Chile: 1990-2015.”
Magister en Economía, Universidad de Talca, Chile

Anyela Palavecino

2018

“Dinámica del Índice de pobreza Multidimensional en adultos mayores entre 1990 y 2015.”
Magister en Economía, Universidad de Talca, Chile

Ranim J Hannania

2015/2016

“Empirical Evidence of Moral Hazard Effect on Health Care Costs: A Systematic Review.”
MIPH, Universität Heidelberg, Germany

Ahmed Yehia Khalifa

2015/2016

“Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Health System Analysis: The Case of Egypt.”
MIPH, Universität Heidelberg, Germany

Conference Participation (*excerpt*)

Diverging identification of the Poor, Chile 1992-2017

ENERO 2020

Encuentro Anual Sociedad Chilena de Políticas Públicas
Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile

Energy poverty measures and the identification of the energy poor: A comparison between the utilitarian and multidimensional approaches in Chile

ENERO 2020

Encuentro Anual Sociedad Chilena de Políticas Públicas
Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile

Presentation of ‘Diverging identification of the poor: A non-random process. Chile 1992–2017’

NOVEMBER 2019

LACEA-LAMES 2019 Annual Meeting
Puebla, Mexico

Energy Poverty in Chile

MAY 2020

SETI 2019 (Duke University & Universidad de Talca)
Universidad de Talca, Chile

Internal migration and Multidimensional Poverty in Chile

JUNIO 2019

Conference on Interdisciplinary Poverty Research on Migration and Poverty
Center for Ethics and Poverty Research, Salzburg, Austria

Approaching a disaster capitalism index

JUNIO 2019

i-Rec 2019
University of Miami, USA

Presentation of ‘Diverging identification of the poor: A non-random process. Chile 1992–2017’

SEPTEMBER 2018

WIDER Development Conference
Helsinki, Finland

Keynote Speaker

OCTOBER 2015

“IV Reunión Anual - II Encuentro Científico Interdisciplinario 2015”
Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Participant / Paper Presenter	<i>Sixth meeting of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality (ECINEQ)</i> University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg
JULY 2015	
Participant / Paper Presenter	<i>ENCUENTROS 2015 ChileGlobal conference</i> Rotterdam, Netherlands
JULY 2015	
Participant / Paper Presenter	<i>IRIBA Conference</i> Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
MAY 2014	
Participant / Paper Presenter	<i>IARIW-IBGE Conference on Income, Wealth and Well-being in Latin America</i> Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
SEPTEMBER 2013	
Participant / Paper Presenter	<i>Fifth meeting of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality (ECINEQ)</i> University of Bari, Italy
JULY 2013	
Participant / Paper Presenter	<i>Arnoldshain Seminar XI: "Migration, Development, and Demographic Change – Problems, Consequences, Solutions"</i> Institute of Development Policy and Management at the University of Antwerp, Belgium
JUNE 2013	
Participant / Paper Presenter	<i>The 12th Nordic Conference in Development Economics</i> The Norwegian School of Economics - NHH, Bergen, Norway
JUNE 2013	
Participant / Paper Presenter	<i>Migration: Global Development, New Frontiers - Interdisciplinary conference on migration (NORFACE & CReAM)</i> University College London, United Kingdom
APRIL 2013	
Participant / Paper Presenter	<i>The Poverty Reduction, Equity, and Growth Network's (PEGNet) conference 2012: "How to Make African Economic Lions: Tapping Africa's Growth and Poverty Reduction Potentials"</i> Dakar, Senegal
SEPTEMBER 2012	
Participant / Paper Presenter	<i>Encuentros 2011 conference</i> University of California Berkeley, USA
NOVEMBER 2011	
Participant / Project Meeting	<i>WIDER Research Project: "The New Policy Model, Inequality and Poverty in Latin America: Evidence from the Last Decade and Prospects for the Future" (Second meeting)</i> Buenos Aires, Argentina
SEPTEMBER 2011	

Conference Participation (excerpt & continuation)

Participant / Project Meeting

DECEMBER 2010

WIDER Research Project: "The New Policy Model, Inequality and Poverty in Latin America: Evidence from the Last Decade and Prospects for the Future" (First meeting)
UN Secretariat Building, New York, USA

Participant / Paper Presenter

SEPTEMBER 2010

The Poverty Reduction, Equity, and Growth Network's (PEGNet) conference
Development Bank of Southern Africa, Midrand, South Africa

Participant / Paper Presenter

AUGUST 2010

Encuentros 2010 conference
Cambridge University, United Kingdom

Participant / Paper Presenter

FEBRUARY 2010

Migration: A World in Motion. A Multinational Conference on Migration and Migration Policy (Co-Sponsored by APPAM)
University of Maastricht, Netherlands

Participant / Paper Presenter

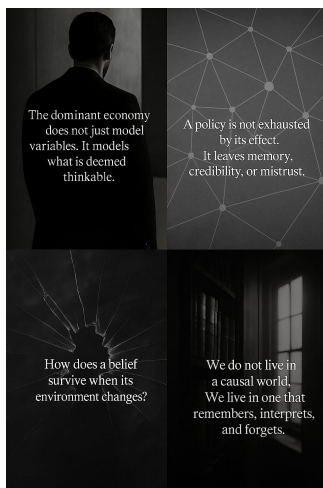
JULY 2009

The Society for the Study of Economic Inequality (ECINEQ), Third Meeting
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Participant / Paper Presenter

NOVEMBER 2008

Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA), Annual Meeting
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



Economics is not causal. It is epistemic.

In Helsinki, during a UNU-WIDER seminar, I listened to Kaushik Basu present a simple but decisive idea: laws do not work because they are enforced—they work because people believe they should. Compliance is a matter of shared expectations, not force.

Later, I referenced this same view in an economic discussion. The reply was curt: “Economics is utilitarian.” It was not a methodological argument. It was an identity claim. Economics, in that room, was not about understanding—it was about preserving a particular way of seeing.

That moment clarified something essential: mainstream economics doesn’t just model relationships between variables. It models what is deemed thinkable. Anything that destabilizes its architecture is dismissed, even if it reflects reality more faithfully.

We do not live in a causal world. We live in a world that remembers, that interprets, that adapts—poorly or well—to the unexpected. In such a world, causality is useful, but insufficient. It is a local instrument inside a far deeper epistemic terrain.

A policy does not end with its effect. It leaves traces in institutional memory, in future credibility, in the justifications people adopt—or reject. An economic model is never neutral. It is a narrative that affirms certain forms of order and silences others.

So the question is not just what causes what. The real questions are:
How does a belief survive when its environment shifts?

How does an institution listen after learning not to doubt?

How much dissonance must accumulate before a paradigm collapses?

This is the economy I care about—not one that clings to pristine equations, but one that dares to model the conflict between what we expect and what actually occurs. An economy that knows the real danger isn’t being wrong—it’s not knowing what to do when the data no longer confirm our convictions.