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Facultad de Ciencias Económicas y Administrativas
Cr.7 No.40B-36, Ed. Jorge Hoyos Vásquez, S.J., Piso 7. Bogotá, Colombia
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Governance and Policy Analysis Maastricht and Unu-Merit University	Mar. 2017 – Jun. 2021 Maastricht, the Netherlands
Master of Public Administration New York University	Aug. 2012 – May. 2014 New York, NY, USA
Master in Economics (honors) Pontificia Universidad Javeriana	Jul. 2006 – Oct. 2008 Bogotá, Colombia
B.A. in Economist Pontificia Universidad Javeriana	Jan. 2001 – Oct. 2005 Bogotá, Colombia

MAJOR WORK EXPERIENCE

Oct 2023 –	Director of the Laboratory of Economics of Education (LEE) in Colombia Evidence-based laboratory in education (https://lee.javeriana.edu.co/). Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá Colombia
Nov 2022 –	Director: Doctorate in Economics Program. Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia
Jan 2022 –	Associate Professor: Economics Department. Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia
2020 -Sep 2023	Cofounder and Codirector of the Laboratory of Economics of Education (LEE) in Colombia (with Luz Karime Abadía): Cofounded and codirect evidence-based laboratory in education (https://lee.javeriana.edu.co/). Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá Colombia

WORK EXPERIENCE

Jan 2025-	Editorial Board: International Journal of Educational Research Open. UK. Elsevier Journal.
Feb -Dec 2024	Associate Editor: International Journal of Educational Research Open. UK. Elsevier Journal.
Jan 2023-	Editorial Board: International Journal of Educational Research. UK. Elsevier Journal.
2009 – 2021	Assistant Professor: Economics Department. Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia
2010 – 2011	Acting Director: Undergraduate Economics Program. Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia

2006 – 2009	Instructor: Economics Department. Courses: Principles of Economics, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics. Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia
2002 – 2006	Teaching Assistant: Basic Macroeconomics, Economics Growth, Mathematical Economics, Time Series. Economics Department. Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia

HONORS AND AWARDS

2024	Finalist – Premio Portafolio 2024 for Best University Professor in Colombia (Economics, Business, and Industrial Engineering category)
2021	Teaching excellence award. Javeriana University
2017–2021	Ph.D. Scholarship. Nuffic Netherlands Fellowship Programmes (NFP)
2012–2014	Colfuturo Scholarship
2010	Fulbright Scholarship (declined)
2008	Best GPA and Master’s Thesis. Javeriana University
2005	Best Tutor award, Economics. Javeriana University
2004	Scholarship, leader formation program. PEP

PUBLICATIONS (Last 5 years)

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- * Indicates the publications of which I was the first author or to which I made an equal contribution
- *Bernal, G., Abadía, L.K., Álvarez-Arango, L.E., De Witte, K. (2024) **Financial aid uncertainty and low-income students’ higher education preferences.** *Higher Education*, 1-19
- *Bernal, G., Abadía, L.K., Arango, S., DeWitte, K., **Can information change preferences for higher education? Evidence from a randomised experiment in Colombia.** *International Journal of Educational Research* 127 (102417)
- T Agasisti, J Arias, G Bernal, LK Abadía. **The productivity of Colombian public schools and its determinants from a value-added perspective, 2014–2019: an empirical analysis.** *Latin American Economic Review*, volumen 32, abril de 2024
- A Thurston, GL Bernal, LKA Alvarado, M Cockerill, A MacKenzie (2023) **Results from a Phase 2 exploratory trial of Paired Reading in Spanish language in Colombia.** *International Journal of Educational Research Open* 4, 100244
- Abadía, L. K., Bernal, G., Gómez, S., & Alonso, S. (2022). **Capítulo 11. Hechos y recomendaciones para enfrentar los efectos negativos del Covid-19 en la educación colombiana.** En ediciones Banrep, Covid-19: Consecuencias y desafíos en la economía colombiana. Una mirada desde las universidades. Bogotá.
- *Bernal, G. (2021). **On improving education opportunities: preferences and performance of High School students in response to scholarships, information, and co-education.** Boekenplan.
- *Thurston, A., Bernal, G., Abadia, L., Cockerill, M., MacKenzie, A., O’Keeffe, J., & Garcia, J. (2021). **A Phase 2 exploratory trial of Paired Reading in Spanish language in Colombia.** *International Journal of Educational Research*, 106, 101741.
- Gómez-Soler, S., Bernal, G., & Idarraga, P. (2020). **Test Preparation and Students’ Performance: The Case of the Colombian High School Exit Exam.** *Cuadernos de Economía* 39(79), 31–72.
- *Bernal, G., & Penney, J. (2019). **Scholarships and student effort: Evidence from Colombia’s Ser Pilo Paga program.** *Economics of Education Review*.
- Soler, S., Alvarado, L., & Bernal, G. (2019). **Women in STEM: Does college boost their performance?** *Higher Education*, 1–18.

- *Abadía, L., Bernal, G., & Muñoz, S. (2018). **Gaps in students' performance in PISA: What explains Colombia's difference from Finland and Chile?** *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, [S.l.] 26, 82. ISSN 1068-2341.
- *Abadía, L., & Bernal, G. (2017) **A widening gap? A gender-based analysis of performance on the Colombian High School Exit Examination.** *Revista de Economía del Rosario*, [S.l.] 20(1), 28.

FIELD PROJECTS

- 2025- **Pilot impact evaluation of an English language program for children aged 3-5,** operated by Morphy. MORPHY. (promotor)
- 2025- **Impact evaluation of early childhood program administrated by Comfama.** COMFAMA. (Promoter).
- 2025- **Mapeo de oferta de primera Infancia en Bogotá,** Santo Domingo y Santiago de Chile. With Christopher Neilson (Yale University). (co-promoter and field leader).
- 2024- **Glasses for Classes.** Pilot impact evaluation of a Program Providing Glasses to Children Aiming to Improve Visual Health for Better Reading. With Onesight foundation and Fundación G. (Promoter and field leader).
- 2020- **TuTutor.** One-to-one tutoring program for low-income children in Colombia (RCT). Administered by Javeriana University. (Promoter and field leader).
- 2424 **Matemática entre Pares.** Reading Improvement Program for Fourth Grade in Collaboration with Queen's University Belfast, UK. (Promoter and field leader).
- 2021- 2022 **Secretaría de Seguridad de Bogotá.** "La mochila de Justico y Justica" socioemotional program applied in public schools. (Copromoter).
- 2022 **Princeton University.** Yo elijo mi cupo: postulaciones a colegios en Palmira. Collaboration with Chris Neilson.
- 2021 **Queens Belfast University.** Pair reading project to enforce reading skills in public schools (RCT). (Promoter and field leader).
- 2021 **ESCALANDO. WELBIN.** Well-being school index. Surveys conducted with more than 900 Colombian schools. (Provided technical assistance).
- 2021 **ICFES & ICETEX.** Survey on limitations to higher education access in five regions of Colombia. (Coresearcher).
- 2021 **Secretarías de Educación Colombia.** Survey on teachers' tools and limitations during the pandemic in secondary education in Colombia. (Copromoter).

OTHER PROJECTS

- 2024- **Inter-American Development Bank.** Development of a Higher Education Platform in Collaboration with the Secretariats of Cali and Antioquia
- 2023 - **Yale University.** Census Survey of Early Childhood Establishments in Bogotá.
- 2022 **Fundación Corona.** Tercer Informe Nacional de Empleo Inclusivo. Advisor.
- 2022 **Corcultura.** Expectations of the future among young vulnerable children.
- 2021-2023 **Consejo Privado de Competitividad.** Measuring digital abilities among youth.
- 2021-2022 **Secretaría Distrital de Seguridad, Convivencia y Justicia.** Programa pedagógico de mediación escolar.

RESEARCH GRANTS-PROJECTS

- 2022 **Save the Children.** Costing of childhood and adolescence policy in Colombia. (Copromoter; USD 25,712)
- 2022 **Save the Children.** Empleability and Employment Index. (Promoter; USD 9142)
- 2020 **Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF) Awards, 2020/21.** With Allen Thurston, Luz Karime Abadia, & Maria Cockerill (Copromoter; GBP 25,000)
- 2020 **ICFES research grant.** With Alberto Sasmay Ananías (Promoter; USD 10,000)
- 2016 **ICFES research grant.** With Jeffrey Penney. (Promoter; USD 10,860)
- 2016 **ICFES research grant.** With Silvia Gómez and Luz Karime Abadía. (Promoter; USD 12,525)
- 2015 **ICFES research grant.** With Luz Karime Abadía. (Copromoter; USD 9,445)
- 2014 **ICFES research grant.** With Paula Herrera and Silvia Gómez. (Promoter; USD 13,047)
- 2014 **ICFES research grant.** With Luz Karime Abadía (Copromoter; USD 11,805)

Note: ICFES stands for Instituto Colombiano para el Fomento de la Educación Superior (Colombian Institute for the Promotion of Higher Education). The ICFES grants were originally in Colombian pesos; exchange rate: USD 1 = COP 3,500.

CONSULTANCIES

- 2025 **UNIVERSIDAD MARIANA.** Estudio sobre Educación Superior en Nariño.
- 2424 **ASCUN.** Proyecciones cobertura de matrícula de Educación Superior.
- 2021 **IDEP.** Instituto para la Investigación Educativa, Bogotá. Desarrollo del índice IDE del derecho a la educación de colegios privados. Development of the IDE index of the right to education in private schools. Surveys administered to private schools.
- 2020 **IDEP.** Instituto para la Investigación Educativa, Bogotá. Caracterización de Jardines Infantiles que ofrecen educación preescolar en Bogotá.
- 2019 **Ministry of Education of Colombia.** Guidelines on innovation in education.
- 2012 **Ministry of Health of Colombia.** Cost-effectiveness analysis: Alcohol, Sepsis, and Asphyxia.

LIBROS O CAPÍTULOS DE LIBRO

Abadía LK, Bernal G, Gómez S, Alonso S. 2022/5/11. Capítulo 11. **Hechos y recomendaciones para enfrentar los efectos negativos del Covid-19 en la educación colombiana.** Banco de la República de Colombia.

Abadía LK, Bernal G, Martínez C, et al (2020) **Modelos de financiación para acceder a la educación superior en Colombia: diagnóstico y recomendaciones.** IDEP

Abadía LK, Bernal G, Blanco C, et al. (2020). **El derecho a la educación. Perspectivas e indicadores en Colombia y Bogotá.** IDEP

WORKING PAPERS

J Penney, SF Lehrer, GL Bernal, LC Reyes (2023) **Do opportunities for low-income students at top colleges promote academic success? Evidence from Colombia's Ser Pilo Paga program.** Working Paper Series

Bernal, G., Penney, J., et al. (2022). COVID-19 and Learning Loss: Evidence from Colombia. [Document](#)

Bernal, G., Abadía, L., & Sasmay, A. (2021). Are non-cognitive factors predictors of math performance of girls and boys? A Machine Learning approach. [Document](#)

Bernal, G., Abadía, L. Arango, S., & De Witte, K. (2022). Can information change preferences for higher education? Evidence from a randomized experiment in Colombia. [Document](#)

Bernal, G. (2020). Preferences for STEM programs and gender differences: Evidence from a discrete choice experiment in Colombia. *Vniversitas Económica* 17(13); 20(6)

Bernal, G., & Penney, J. (2017). The Colombian test score puzzle. *Vniversitas Económica* 17(13). [Document](#)

Giraldo, A., & Bernal, G. (2017). Datos en Tiempo Real, Regla de Taylor y Política Monetaria en Colombia: Otro Ejercicio Empírico. *Vniversitas Económica* 17(1) [Document](#)

Bernal, G., & Wong, J. (2012). Immigrant's educational performance in non-OECD Countries vs. OECD countries. *Capstone NYU*. Evidence from PISA test 2009.

Bernal, G., & Táutica, J. (2011). Relevancia de los datos en tiempo real en la estimación de la Regla de Taylor para Colombia. *Revista de Economía Institucional* 13(24). [Document](#)

Bernal, G., & Nieto, C. (2006). Evolución del coeficiente de Zipf a lo largo del siglo XX en Colombia. *Documentos de Economía*. Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá Colombia. [Document](#)

Tenjo, J. Bernal, G. (2004). Educación y movilidad social en Colombia. *Documentos de Economía*. Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia. Documento de consultoría DANE.

POLICY BRIEFS – LEE - COLOMBIA (Manuscripts in Spanish)

- 2022 Characterization of private pre-K education in Bogotá. [Document](#)
- 2022 Welbin. Contitions of the schools’s well-being. [Document](#)
- 2021 The right to education. Prospects and indicators in Colombia and Bogota. [Document](#)
- 2021 Welbin. Contitions to the schools’s well-being. [Document](#)
- 2021 Changes and challenges that teachers faced by teachers during the closure of schools due to the pandemic. [Document](#)
- 2020 Financing models to access higher education in Colombia: Diagnosis and recommendations. [Document](#)
- 2020 Private and public higher education institutions in Colombia: A multidimensional approach. [Document](#)
- 2020 Higher education in COVID-19 times: State of the art and prospects. [Document](#)
- 2020 Facts and recommendations to face negative effects from COVID-19 on Colombian education. [Document](#)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Effect of information on schooling decisions. With Christopher Neilson.
- The productivity of Colombian public schools and its determinants: An empirical analysis. With Tommaso Agasisti, Juliana Arias and Luz Karime Abadía.
- Are non-cognitive factors predictors of math performance of girls and boys? A Machine Learning approach. With Alberto Sasmay and Luz Karime Abadía.
- Value-added from tertiary education: Evidence from Colombia. With Jeffrey Penney.
- The effect of converting single-sex schools to coeducational: Quasi-experimental evidence from Colombia. With Kristof De Witte.
- When chances for higher education drop: The cancellation of the Ser Pilo Paga scholarship on student preferences for higher education. With Luz Karime Abadía, Luis Esteban Alvarez, & Kristof De Witte.
- Paired reading in the Spanish language in Colombia. With Luz Karime Abadía, Maria Cockerill, & Allen Thurston.
- Survey on educational practices in elementary and secondary education during COVID-19. With Luz Karime Abadía & Tommaso Agasisti.
- Education, COVID-19, and pro-social behavior: The effect of remote tutoring. With Luz Karime Abadia & Daniela Morar.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Aug. 2018 – Dec. 2018 Junior Researcher, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium
- Feb. 2013 – Jun. 2012 Research Assistant, M.P.A, New York University, New York, USA
- Dec. 2011 – May. 2012 Research Fellow, Javeriana University and Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia
- Aug. 2004 – Apr. 2005 Research Assistant, Central Bank, Bogotá, Colombia

SUPERVISOR OF MASTER’S THESES (in Spanish)

- Jaime Polanco. Doctoral Student. (2025p). "Gender Composition in Classrooms: Influences on Post-Secondary Schooling Choices"
- Kevin Stiven Sanchez Castillo. Ser Pilo Paga: una mirada desde los colegios (in process) (undergrad)
- Yessika Natalia Morera Ubaque (2024) Impacto del programa de Aulas de Acompañamiento
- Ana Soffa Roncallo (2023). La corrupción medida desde la concentración del poder político en Colombia. (undergrad)
- Alberto Jose Gomez Calero. (2022). Evaluación del beneficio de exención de deuda del ICETEX por altos puntajes, sobre las pruebas Saber Pro: aproximación desde un modelo de Diferencias en Diferencias.
- José Luis Castilla Palomino. (2022). Relación de la asistencia a controles médicos con los resultados cognitivos de los niños y niñas: evidencia para Colombia
- Lina Rodríguez y Zaida Roa. (2021). Déficit de médicos en Colombia en área rural: exploración de incentivos para aumentar la participación de médicos en el servicio social obligatorio-SSO en zonas vulnerables de Colombia.
- Juliette Martinez, Sara Campuzano y Andrea Rodríguez. (2020). "Development of a PSO metaheuristic for the menu planning problem with DCE preferences analysis".
- Daniela Mesa. (2020). Determinantes de la Percepción de la Democracia en Colombia.
- Ana Yudy Vera y Harrison Sandoval. (2019). ¿Colegios que están expuestos a factores de competencia tienen mejores resultados en las pruebas saber11 que aquellos que no lo están?
- Oskar Quintero. (2018). Efectos de la Acreditación de Alta Calidad sobre el Valor Agregado de las pruebas de Estado. Ganador convocatoria de investigación ICFES 2018-estudaintes.
- Nathalia Lesmes y Catalina Vallejo. (2018). Incompatibilidad existente entre las preferencias de estudio de los individuos y la elección de carrera Caso aplicado a Colombia.
- Niny López. (2017). ¿El programa de alimentación escolar contribuye a mejorar el rendimiento académico?: Evaluación del PAE en Colombia. *Vniversitas Económica* 17(11). Ganadora convocatoria de investigación ICFES 2016-Estudiantes.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 **AEDE**, XXX meeting Economics of Education Association, Porto. Jun. 30/Jul. 1.
- 2021 **ICFES**, 11° International Reserch Seminar, Socioemocionales. Nov. 4-5.
Javeriana. Congreso de investigación de la Universidad Javeriana. Sept. 14-17.
LEER. Workshop Experimental evidence in Education Economics. Nov. 19.
- 2020 **Banco de la República**, Bogotá, Colombia. Feb. 6.
- 2019 **ICFES**, 10° International Reserch Seminar, educación superior. Nov. 7-8.
5th LEER Workshop on Education Economics. KU Leuven. Leuven, Belgium. Apr. 4-5. (x2)
AEFP 44th Annual Conference. Kansas City, Missouri, USA. Mar. 21-23.
Fedesarrollo, Seminario. Aug. 23.
LEER. Workshop improving quality and returns to education. Nov. 5.
UNU-Merit. Maastricht University, GPAC Workshop. Nov. 12.
- 2018 **IWAEE. 9th International Workshop on Applied Economics of Education** Catanzaro, Italy, Jun. 17-19. Poster.
Canadian Embassy. May. 28.
UNICEF, Bogotá. Jul. 11.
- 2017 **ICFES. 8th International Reserch Seminar ICFES**. Cartagena, Colombia. Poster. Nov. 2-3.
UNU-MERIT, Maastricht University. GPAC Workshop. Maastricht, The Netherlands. Nov. 20-24.
Javeriana. Congreso de investigación de la Universidad Javeriana. Sep. 13-15.

International Symposium on Gender Studies, Interdisciplinary Research Foundation. London, England. Mar. 3–5.

2016 **Gender Gap Conference.** Poland. Jul.

ICFES. 7th International Research Seminar. Nov. 3–4.

2015 **ICFES.** 6th International Research Seminar. Nov. 5–6.
Javeriana Cali. Simposio de microeconomía.

DISCUSSION PANELS AND INTERVENTIONS IN CONGRESS (last year only)

Sep 2024 **Congress.** Senado. Intervención: concepto técnico sobre PAL_08

Aug 2024 Contexto y trayectorias STEM. Con rectores. Secretaría de Educación de Bogotá.

May 2024 **Congress.** Senado. Intervención: concepto técnico sobre proyecto de Ley Estatutaria de Educación.

Apr 2024 **Congress.** Cámara de representantes. Audiencia pública sobre Calidad de la educación rural.

Apr 2024 Asistencia a mesa técnica citada por la Secretaría de Desarrollo de Bogotá sobre estrategias para mejorar la empleabilidad de jóvenes.

Jul 2024 Webinar Evidencia y acción: Mejoramiento de la Gestión Escolar.

Jul 2024 Encuentro con rectores secretaría de educación de bogotá.

Jun 2024 Foros Semana. ¿Hay escasez del talento humano en Colombia?

May 2024 LEE. Lo bueno y lo malo de la Ley Estatutaria.

Apr 2024 EAFIT. Valor Social. La Educación Superior en Colombia a 30 años de la ley 30

OTHERS

Apr 2024 Member of the Colfuturo Education Selection Committee (for Master's and Ph.D. Scholarships)

MEDIA IN COLOMBIA

Op-ed la republica. Julio 2024

2024 Appearances in national media speaking on education. More than 54, including TV, radio, and newspapers. (in progress).

2024 Op-ed. ¿Una Superintendencia de Educación? Un cheque en blanco al portador. El Espectador. Septiembre 2024.

2024 Op-ed. Por un Sistema Mixto de Educación. Portafolio. Julio 2024.

2023 Appearances in national media speaking on education. More than 46, including TV, radio, and newspapers.

2022 Appearances in national media speaking on education. More than 41, including TV, radio, and newspapers.

2021 Appearances in national media speaking on education. More than 40, including TV, radio, and newspapers.

2020 Appearances in national media speaking on education. More than 25, including TV, radio, and newspapers.

2022 Op-ed. ¿Cómo ampliar la cobertura en educación superior a un relativo bajo costo?. Nov. 21. *El Tiempo*.

- 2017 Op-ed. Que retribuya al que se le atribuye. Sep. 27. *Portafolio*.
2017 Op-ed. Las niñas, con menor desempeño que los niños. Jan. 6. *Portafolio*.
2015 Op-ed. Ser rico paga. Potafolio. With Luis Carlos Reyes. Apr. 24. *Portafolio*.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- 2020– Cofounder and promoter of TuTutor program (tutoring program for fifth-grade vulnerable children in public schools in Colombia. More than 1600 pairs and 25,000 hours of tutoring as of Nov. 2023)
2001–2008 Athlete on the running team of Javeriana University.
Futbol team. Economics and Business Faculty of Javeriana University.
2002–2010 Volunteer in social programs of Javeriana University.

COMPLEMENTARY COURSES

- 2022 Cardoner. Javeriana University.
2003 Diplomado del Mercado Laboral. Javeriana University.

LANGUAGES

Spanish (native), English (professional level)