

# Román Andrés Zárate

## Address

Max Gluskin House  
150 St. George Street, Office: 275  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5S 3G7, Canada

## Contact Information

email: [ra.zarate@utoronto.ca](mailto:ra.zarate@utoronto.ca)  
tel: +1 (647) 393-7136

## Academic Positions

Assistant Professor 2020-  
Department of Economics  
University of Toronto

Postdoctoral Fellow 2019-20  
Institute on Behavior and Inequality (briq)

## Affiliations

Institute of Labor Economics (IZA) 2024-  
MIT Blueprint Labs 2019-  
Institute on Behavior and Inequality (briq) 2020-24

## Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Ph.D., Economics, 2019

Universidad de los Andes  
M.A. *cum laude*, Economics, 2012  
B.A. *summa cum laude*, Economics, 2010

## Working Papers

Violence at School with Josefa Aguirre and Fernanda Ramírez, January 2026.

School Effects on College Outcomes in the Absence of Standardized Tests with Martín Carbajal, Pía Basurto, and Manuel Barrón, January 2026.

Massive Open Online Courses and Labor Market Outcomes: Evidence from Colombia with Stephanie Majerowicz, November 2025. *R&R The Economic Journal*.

Gender Stereotypes and Peer Recognition with Manuel Barrón, Pía Basurto, and Juan Francisco Castro, August 2025. *R&R Journal of Economic Behavior and Organizations*

Homophily in Social Networks: A Learning-based Approach with Arda Gitmez, November 2022.

## Publications

Choice and Consequence: Assessing Mismatch at Chicago Exam Schools with Joshua Angrist and Parag Pathak. *Journal of Public Economics*, July 2023, Vol. 223: 104892.

Uncovering Peer Effects in Social and Academic Skills. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, July 2023, Vol. 15 (3): Page 35-79.

Cash and Ballots: Conditional Transfers, Political Participation and Voting Behavior with Emily Conover, Adriana Camacho, and Javier Baez. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, January 2020, Vol. 68(2), Pages 541-566.

Regression Discontinuity in Serial Dictatorship: Achievement Effects at Chicago's Exam Schools with Atila AbdulkadIroglu, Joshua D. Angrist, Yusuke Narita and Parag A. Pathak.

*American Economic Review: Papers & Proceedings*, May 2017, Vol. 107, No. 5: Pages 240-245.

**Work in Progress** Can regular psychological support reduce school violence and improve students' outcomes? with Clémentine Van Effenterre, Stephanie Majerowicz and Jonathan Enriquez.

Market Competition and College Admission Policies in the Absence of Standardized Tests with Arda Gitmez and Iris Vrioni.

**Teaching** Personnel Economics (undergrad) 2022-24  
Economic Development (PhD and undergrad) 2020-24

**Grants and Awards** Spencer small grants (co-PI) 2025  
SSHRC Insight Development Grant (\$72,436 CAD) 2024  
Weiss Family Fund University of Chicago (\$92,850 USD) 2024  
J-PAL LAI (\$74,085 USD) 2024  
Economic Journal Referee Prize 2024  
University of Toronto Dean's Excellence Award 2023  
J-PAL SLII (co-PI, \$266,283 USD) 2022  
Connaught Fund (\$19,520 CAD) 2022  
SSHRC Insight Development Grant (\$58,027 CAD) 2022  
Arnold Ventures (co-PI, \$139,742 USD) 2022  
J-PAL SLII (co-PI, \$222,358 USD) 2021  
EGAP Latin America Hub (\$15,000) 2021  
IPA Research Methods Initiative (\$20,000) 2021  
J-PAL Invited Researcher 2019  
IADB Increasing Trust in Latin America (\$30,000) 2019  
ICFES Research Grant (\$15,500) 2019  
J-WEL Workplace Learning Innovation Grant (\$69,360) 2019  
Spencer NAEEd Dissertation Fellowship 2018  
Weiss Family Fund (\$21,584) 2017  
MIT Economics Department Fellowship 2013-15  
Portafolio Awards (finalist) 2010  
Universidad de los Andes Scholarship for Master in Economics 2010  
Colombian National Exam of Undergraduate Quality (1st/3,491) 2010  
Universidad de los Andes Ramón de Zubiría Scholarship 2009  
Universidad de los Andes Academic Excellence Scholarship 2008, 2010

**Academic Presentations** 2025: Universidad de los Andes, LACEA, Symposium on Social and Economic Networks (Monash), Workshop on Education Economics and Policy (WEEP).  
2024: Ridge Forum on Public Economics, Universidad de Montevideo, Northeastern education conference  
2023: Wilfrid Laurier University, Universidad del Rosario, Universidad de Los Andes, Frontiers in Applied Microeconomics Toronto.  
2022: Simon Fraser University, JILAEE Special ESSA Meeting.  
2021: 6th Annual Conference on Network Science and Economics, J-WEL Connections, NEUDC.  
2020: Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam\*, Boston FED\*, York University, E-con of Education Seminar, Workshop on Peer Effects (Jinan University), Bilkent University.  
2019: Notre Dame (Keough), PUC Chile, Universidad de los Andes, Universidad del Rosario, Arizona, Toronto, Maryland AREC, Michigan School of Information, briq/IZA Behavioral Economics of Education, Northwestern (Rookiefest), Barcelona GSE, AFE Conference (Chicago),

IZA Education, Inter-American Development Bank.  
 2018: NEUDC (Cornell).  
 \*scheduled, \*canceled or postponed due to the pandemic.

<b>Referee Service</b>	<i>Review of Economics Studies, Journal of the European Economic Association, NSF grants, J-PAL LAI, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Political Economy, J-PAL LAI, Oxford Development Studies, Econometrica, Management Science, American Economic Review, Journal of Public Economics, AEJ: Economic Policy, Review of Economics and Statistics, American Economic Review: Insights, Journal of Human Resources, Economic Journal, AEJ: Micro, Quarterly Journal of Economics, AEJ: Applied Economics, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Economics of Education Review</i>	
<b>Undergraduate Students</b>	Sara Mostafa (Pre-doc UofT)	2022
<b>Graduate Students</b>	Amy Huang (ongoing)	2028
	Marc-Antoine Chatelain (UofT postdoc)	2025
	Poli Natama (World Bank)	2024
	Hammad Shaikh (University of Stavanger)	2022
	Jiaqi Zou (Corvinus University)	2022
<b>Research Assistants</b>	Martín Carbajal (Ph.D. Arizona State University)	2024