

# Román Andrés Zárate

## Address

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## Contact Information

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<b>Academic Positions</b>	Assistant Professor Department of Economics University of Toronto	2020-
	Postdoctoral Fellow Institute on Behavior and Inequality (briq)	2019-20
<b>Affiliations</b>	Institute of Labor Economics (IZA) MIT Blueprint Labs Institute on Behavior and Inequality (briq)	2024- 2019- 2020-24
<b>Education</b>	Massachusetts Institute of Technology Ph.D., Economics, 2019	
	Universidad de los Andes M.A. <i>cum laude</i> , Economics, 2012 B.A. <i>summa cum laude</i> , Economics, 2010	
<b>Working Papers</b>	Violence at School with Josefa Aguirre and Fernanda Ramírez, January 2026.  School Effects on College Outcomes in the Absence of Standardized Tests with Martín Carbalaj, Pía Basurto, and Manuel Barrón, January 2026.  Massive Open Online Courses and Labor Market Outcomes: Evidence from Colombia with Stephanie Majerowicz, November 2025. <i>R&amp;R The Economic Journal</i> .  Gender Stereotypes and Peer Recognition with Manuel Barrón, Pía Basurto, and Juan Francisco Castro, August 2025. <i>R&amp;R Journal of Economic Behavior and Organizations</i>  Homophily in Social Networks: A Learning-based Approach with Arda Gitmez, November 2022.	
<b>Publications</b>	Choice and Consequence: Assessing Mismatch at Chicago Exam Schools with Joshua Angrist and Parag Pathak. <i>Journal of Public Economics</i> , July 2023, Vol. 223: 104892.  Uncovering Peer Effects in Social and Academic Skills. <i>American Economic Journal: Applied Economics</i> , 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. <i>Economic Development and Cultural Change</i> , January 2020, Vol. 68(2), Pages 541-566.  Regression Discontinuity in Serial Dictatorship: Achievement Effects at Chicago's Exam Schools with Atila Abdulkadıroğlu, 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.

<b>Teaching</b>	Personnel Economics (undergrad)	2022-24
	Economic Development (PhD and undergrad)	2020-24

<b>Grants and Awards</b>	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 NAEd 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

<b>Academic Presentations</b>	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, JILAE 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) Marc-Antoine Chatelain (UofT postdoc) Poli Natama (World Bank) Hammad Shaikh (University of Stavanger) Jiaqi Zou (Corvinus University)	2028 2025 2024 2022 2022
<b>Research Assistants</b>	Martín Carbajal (Ph.D. Arizona State University)	2024