

Laura Montenegro Helfer

+1 312-342-7366 | lmontenegro@uchicago.edu | laura-montenegro.com

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: Laura (*1st name*) Montenegro (*1st surname*) Helfer (*2nd surname*). [*Hispanic Naming Convention*].

Date & Place of Birth: 19.12.1989. Oxford, UK.

Citizenships: Colombian & Swiss.

EDUCATION

Harris School of Public Policy (University of Chicago)

August 2017 – Present

PhD in Public Policy

Chicago, USA

- Expected date of defense: April 2023.
- Supervisors: James Robinson (chair) | Harris School of Public Policy
Christopher Blattman | Harris School of Public Policy
Richard Hornbeck | Booth School of Business
- Thesis: “Forging the Nation of Apartheid:
Market Access and the Rise of Afrikaner Identity”

Universidad de los Andes

August 2013 – December 2016

MA in Economics

Bogotá, Colombia

- Date of defense: October 25 2016.
- Supervisor: Ana María Ibáñez.
- Thesis: “Forming State through Land Reform Policy: The Dynamics
of Baldío Allocation in Peripheral Colombia”

Universidad de los Andes

January 2008 – December 2014

BA in History

Bogotá, Colombia

- Date of defense: November 19 2014.
- Supervisor: Decsi Arévalo.
- Thesis: “Rethinking Colombian Rurality: The Politics of Development,
Land, and Agricultural Workers’ Livelihood in Designing
the Social Agrarian Reform (1960-1961)”

Universidad de los Andes

January 2008 – June 2013

BA in Economics

Bogotá, Colombia

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

PhD Student/Candidate in Public Policy

August 2017 – Present

Harris School of Public Policy (University of Chicago)

Chicago, USA

- Supervisors: James Robinson (chair) | Harris School of Public Policy
Christopher Blattman | Harris School of Public Policy
Richard Hornbeck | Booth School of Business

Research Assistant

September 2016 – July 2017

Harris School of Public Policy (University of Chicago)

Chicago, USA

- Supervisor: James Robinson
- Job description: Analysis of historical legal documents in Latin America.

Research Assistant in the Field (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

June 2016 – August 2016

Harris School of Public Policy (University of Chicago) & Harvard University

Chicago & Boston, USA

- Supervisors: James Robinson & Nathan Nunn
- Job description: Surveyor training, survey design, and project management.

Research Assistant

January 2016 – June 2016

Universidad de los Andes

Bogotá, Colombia

- Supervisor: James Robinson.
- Job description: Analysis of historical legal documents in Colombia.

Research Assistant in the Field (Colombia)

September 2014 & February – March 2015

Universidad de los Andes

Bogotá, Colombia

- Supervisor: Juan Camilo Cárdenas.

- Job description: Surveyor training, behavioral economics experiment design, and project management.

MA Student in Economics

Universidad de los Andes

- Supervisor: Ana María Ibáñez.

August 2013 – December 2016

Bogotá, Colombia

Research Assistant

Universidad de los Andes

- Supervisor: Ana María Ibáñez.
- Job description: Data analysis on topics regarding rural conflict in Colombia.

July 2013 – May 2016

Bogotá, Colombia

TEACHING ACTIVITIES (TEACHING ASSISTANTS)

Business in Historical Perspective (MBA) | Richard Hornbeck

Booth School of Business (University of Chicago)

January 2021/2022 – March 2021/2022

Chicago, USA

How to Change the World (MPP) | Chris Blattman

Harris School of Public Policy (University of Chicago)

September 2021– December 2021

Chicago, USA

Capstone in International Policy and Development (MPP) | Chris Blattman

Harris School of Public Policy (University of Chicago)

March 2019– May 2019

Chicago, USA

Weak States and International Relations (MPP) | Roger Myerson

Harris School of Public Policy (University of Chicago)

March 2019/2020– May 2019/2020

Chicago, USA

Economy of Institutions and Decisions (MA) | Juan Camilo Cárdenas

Universidad de los Andes

January 2015– May 2015

Bogotá, Colombia

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP IN SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

Colloquium Member

Institute for Humane Studies & Liberty Fund

June 2022 – April 2023

USA

Graduate Dissertation Fellow

Economic History Association

March 2022 – March 2023

USA

Pearson Scholar

The Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts

August 2017 – Present

USA

PRIZES, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Institute for Humane Studies & Liberty Fund Colloquium

June 2022 – April 2023

Economic History Association Graduate Fellowship

March 2022 – March 2023

Pearson Institute Research and Innovation Fund

January 2022

Nicholson British Studies Graduate Digital Archival Research Grant

March 2021

Pearson Institute Research and Innovation Fund

January 2021

Economic History Association Exploratory Travel and Data Grant

March 2020

Becker Friedman Institute New Data Acquisition Grant

February 2020

Pearson Institute Research and Innovation Fund

January 2020

Becker Friedman Institute Summer Research Grant

June 2019

Pearson Scholar Research Grant

August 2017

Pearson Scholarship

August 2017 – Present

Korean Government Program for Undergraduate Students

July 2012

SUPERVISION OF JUNIOR RESEARCHERS (STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANTS)

James Madikizela | Masters in History (3rd year).

University of Cape Town, South Africa

- Job description: archival exploration and indexing.

Nkululeko Nyawose | Masters in Sociology (4th year).

University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

- Job description: archival exploration and indexing.

Chané Venter | Honors in Afrikaans-Nederlandse Taalkunde (2nd year).

University of the Free State, South Africa

- Job description: archival exploration and primary source analysis.

PERSONAL SKILLS

Languages

- English (Native | CAE C1 and TOEFL (British Consulate, ETS)).
- Spanish (Native).
- French (Fluent | Maturité Suisse (Main) and DALF C1 (Colegio Helvetia, Alianza Colombo Francesa Bogotá)).
- German (Fluent | Maturité Suisse (Secondary) and Sprachdiplom I (Colegio Helvetia, Deutsche Schule Bogotá)).
- Russian (Intermediate | A1+ (Academia León Tolstoi Bogotá, Liden & Denz Saint Petersburg)).
- Portuguese, Italian, Dutch, Afrikaans, Haitian Creole (Reading).

Systems

- R, Python, Stata, \LaTeX , Grass, ArcGis, QGis, GeoDK, Matlab.