

Pablo J. Ordóñez

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🌐 Website

EDUCATION

2015-2021 Ph.D. Agricultural and Applied Economics, **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**, US
2009-2010 MSc. Economics and Finance, **University of Bristol**, UK
2003-2008 BA Economics and International Business, **Universidad Icesi**, Colombia

WORK EXPERIENCE

2021 - Ongoing Impact Evaluation Consultant, **Inter-American Development Bank**
I work at the Office of Strategic Planning and Development Effectiveness, providing support to the operations from the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Sector. This includes the design and implementation of impact evaluations and support for the preparation of project completion reports.

2013-2015 Economics Researcher, **Agrosavia**
Agrosavia is Colombia's public institute for the development of technology for the agricultural sector. I participated and led research projects on: farmers' adaptation and attitudes to climate change, and the impact from the adoption of new technologies.

2012-2013 Lecturer, **Universidad Icesi**, Colombia
Taught intermediate macroeconomics to undergraduate students.

2011-2012 Management Consultant, **Ankara Solutions**
2009-2010 Research Assistant, **Universidad Icesi**, Colombia

JOB MARKET PAPER

Payment for Ecosystem Services in Costa Rica: Evaluation of a Country-wide Program (Latest Draft)

Our study evaluates the effect on deforestation and land cover of Costa Rica's payment-for-ecosystem-services (PES) program, one of the oldest country-wide PES programs in the world. Using property level data from over 2,600 landowners who applied to participate in the program between 2016 and 2019, we employ an event study design using modern methods that account for rollout under treatment heterogeneity and find a statistically significant decrease in the deforestation rate. The estimated effect represents an 87% decrease with respect to the pre-2006 average deforestation rate and is equivalent to 0.09 hectares of avoided deforestation per property (a small total effect given the low baseline deforestation). We find no significant effect on forest cover, but we find suggestive evidence that there is a shift from annual to perennial crops. Given that the lack of additionality is one of the main critiques of PES programs, we explore whether the program could increase its additionality by targeting properties with higher ex-ante deforestation risk. For this, we train a machine learning model to predict which properties have a higher risk of deforestation and find that the program is currently not enrolling disproportionately more high-risk properties. Limiting our focus to these properties, we find that the reduction in the deforestation rate is 27-73% larger than what we find for the whole sample of participants. Risk-based targeting could reduce the cost of avoided CO₂ emissions by 42%, from \$71 for the current program to \$41 per ton, well under current estimates of the social cost of carbon.

PUBLICATIONS

2023 **Ordóñez, P. J.**, Baylis, K., Ramirez, M.I. Land cover change effects from community forest management in Michoacán, Mexico. *Environmental Research Letters*. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13750-022-00260-4>

2022 Castle, S. E., Miller, D. C., Merten, N., **Ordóñez, P. J.**, Baylis, K. Evidence for the impacts of agroforestry on ecosystem services and human well-being in high-income countries: a systematic map. *Environmental Evidence*. doi: DOI 10.1088/1748-9326/accdef

- 2021 Castle, S., Miller, D., **Ordonez, P.**, K., Baylis, K. The impacts of agroforestry interventions on agricultural productivity, ecosystem services, and human well-being in low-and middle-income countries: A systematic review. *Campbell Systematic Reviews*, 17-2. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1002/cl2.1167>
- 2020 Miller, D., **Ordonez, P.**, Brown, S., Forrest, S., Nava, N., Hughes, K., Baylis, K. The impacts of agroforestry on agricultural productivity, ecosystem services, and human well-being in low-and middle-income countries: An evidence and gap map. *Campbell Systematic Reviews*, 16-1. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1002/cl2.1066>
- 2018 Brown, S., Miller, D., **Ordonez, P.**, Baylis, K. (2018). Evidence for the impacts of agroforestry on agricultural productivity, ecosystem services, and human well-being in high-income countries: a systematic map protocol. *Environmental Evidence*, 7-1. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13750-018-0136-0>.
- 2017 Miller, D., **Ordonez, P.**, Baylis, K., Hughes, K., Pushpendra, R. Protocol for an evidence and gap map The impacts of agroforestry on agricultural productivity, ecosystem services, and human well-being in low-and middle-income countries: An evidence and gap map. *Campbell Systematic Reviews*, 13(1). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1002/CL2.173>

WORKING PAPERS

“Power Plants, Air Pollution, and Health in Colombia”.

“Agricultural Productivity and Deforestation in Zambia: The Negative Shock from a New Pest”.

“The Response of Colombia’s Manufacturing Sector to Changes in Energy Prices”, with [Mateus Souza](#).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Spring 2019 Environmental Economics **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**
 2012-2013 International Economics, Intermediate Macroeconomics **Icesi University**

Teaching

Assistant

Fall 2018 Environmental Economics **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**

ACCEPTED PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 AERE Meeting ◊ [TWEEDS](#) (workshop in environmental economics and data science)
- 2022 AAEA Summer Meeting
- 2020 AAEA Virtual Meeting
- 2019 AERE ◊ MEA ◊ [FLARE](#) (Forests & Livelihoods: Assessment, Research, and Engagement)
- 2018 AAEA ◊ Collaboration for Environmental Evidence (Paris, France)

FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2023 AERE Scholars Program
- 2018 ACES Graduate Student International Research Grant (\$3,000)
 Tinker Foundation Field Fellowship (\$2,200)
- 2009 Colfuturo Scholarship recipient, Agencia Nacional de Hidrocarburos,
 Santander Abbey Bank - University of Bristol Masters Scholarship

LANGUAGES

ENGLISH - Fluent SPANISH - Native FRENCH - Advanced

SOFTWARE

Stata, R, ArcGIS, QGIS, \LaTeX

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Referee - Journal of Health Economics

REFERENCES

Kathy Baylis - baylis@ucsb.edu

Professor, Department of Geography. University of California, Santa Barbara

Erica Myers - ecmyers@illinois.edu

Associate Professor, Department of Economics. University of Calgary

Leonardo Corral - leonardoc@iadb.org

Principal Economist, Inter-American Development Bank

Allen Blackman - allenb@iadb.org

Principal Economic Advisor, Inter-American Development Bank