

RACHID LAAJAJ

Associate Professor in Economics
University of Los Andes
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EDUCATION

- 2012 Ph.D Wisconsin – Madison, Agricultural and Applied Economics
Dissertation obtained with highest distinction:
Agricultural, Financial and Behavioral Changes on the Path to Sustainable Technology Adoption in Rural Mozambique
Adviser: Michael R. Carter
- 2002-2005 University of Clermont-Ferrand, Center for Study and Research in International
M.A. Development (CERDI), Development Economics, 2005
- 200-2002 Paris Nanterre University Bi-license Economics and English

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019 - ... Associate Professor in Economics, University of Los Andes
- 2023 Associate Visiting Professor at Stanford (King Center on Global Development)
- 2005- ... *Consultant*, World Bank, Interamerican Development Bank, United Nations, Standing
Panel on Impact Assessment, International Fund for Agriculture and Development, etc.
- 2015 - 2019 Assistant Professor in Economics, University of Los Andes
- 2012-2015 Postdoctoral Scholar at Paris School of Economics
- 2009 – 2011 Research Assistant and Project Coordinator “Savings, Subsidies and Sustainable Food
Security: A Field Experiment in Mozambique”, RCT funded by BASIS AMA CRSP,
U.S. Agency for International Development

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

- Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab ([JPAL](#)), Affiliate
- European Development Network ([EUDN](#)), associate member
- Evidence in Governance and Politics ([EGAP](#)), affiliate
- UM6P-J-PAL Agricultural Lab for Africa ([UJALA](#)), Permanent Review Board Member
- Standing Panel on Impact Assessment ([SPIA](#)), Country Affiliate

PAST AFFILIATIONS

RACHID LAAJAJ

Standing Panel on Impact Assessment ([SPIA](#)), Special Initiative Member

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

[The Complexity of Multidimensional Learning in Agriculture](#) (with Karen Macours), 2025 forthcoming in [Econometrica](#)

[The costs of bureaucracy and corruption at customs: Evidence from the computerization of imports in Colombia](#) 2023, (with Marcela Eslava and Tidiane Kinda) *Journal of Public Economics*, 225, p.104969.

[Equality of Opportunity and Human Capital Accumulation: Motivational Effect of a Nationwide Scholarship in Colombia](#) 2022, (with Andres Moya and Fabio Sanchez) *Journal of Development Economics* 154: 102754.
[Globaldev, Foco Economico](#) & [Silla Vacía](#)

["COVID-19 spread, detection, and dynamics in Bogota, Colombia"](#) (with De Los Rios, C., Sarmiento-Barbieri, I. et al.), 2021. *Nature Communications*, 12(1), pp.1-8. [Rep file](#)

[Measuring Skills in Developing Countries](#) (with Karen Macours) *Journal of Human Resources* 2021, 56 (4) 1254-1295. [Online Appendix](#), [VoxDev](#), [Replication file](#)

["Subsidies and the African Green Revolution: Direct Effects and Social Network Spillovers of Randomized Input Subsidies in Mozambique"](#) (with Michael Carter and Dean Yang) *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 2021,13(2), pp.206-29.

["Challenges to Capture the Big Five Personality Traits in non-WEIRD populations"](#) (with Karen Macours, Daniel Alejandro Pinzon Hernandez, Omar Arias, Samuel Gosling, Jeff Potter, Marta Rubio-Codina, and Renos Vakis) *Science advances* 2019, 5, no. 7: eaaw5226.

["Endogenous Time Horizon and Behavioral Poverty Trap: Theory and Evidence from Mozambique"](#) *Journal of Development Economics* 2017, 127, p187-208

["Oil, Governance and the \(Mis\)Allocation of Talents in Developing Countries"](#) (with Christian Ebeke and Luc Désiré Omgba), *Journal of Development Economics*, 2015; 114, p126-141

MAJOR RESEARCH GRANTS

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| USD 1,900,000 | Colombia Country Study assessing the reach of CGIAR technologies funded by the Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (Lead PI, 2025-7) |
| USD 303,950 | Impact Evaluation of "El campo Emprende" in Colombia with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (Lead PI 2023) |
| USD 400,000 | Interamerican Development Bank "COVIDA: strategic testing of COVID-19 to support health policy in Bogota" (Lead PI 2020) |

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| USD 150,000 | CAF “COVIDA: strategic testing of COVID-19 to support health policy in Bogota” (Lead PI 2020) |
| USD 257,527 | World Bank LSMS-ISA 2016-2017 “Skills measurement, reliability and validity application to Colombia” (co-PI with Karen Macours) |
| GBP 385,736 | ESRC DFID 2014-2016 “Heterogeneous quality of agricultural commercial inputs and learning through experimentation” (co-PI with Karen Macours) |
| USD 196,229 | World Bank LSMS-ISA 2012-2014 “Skills measurement and their role in agricultural productivity and technology adoption” (co-PI with Karen Macours) |
| USD 137,374 | BASIS AMA CRSP, U.S. Agency for International Development, 2011 “Savings, Subsidies, and Sustainable Food Security in Mozambique: Post Harvest Survey” (co-PI with Michael R. Carter and Dean Yang) |
| USD 947,658 | BASIS AMA CRSP, U.S. Agency for International Development, 2009-2011 “Savings, Subsidies, and Sustainable Food Security: A Field Experiment in Mozambique” (co-PI with Michael R. Carter and Dean Yang) |

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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| Spring 2022-... | Impact Evaluation (graduate level) |
| Fall 2019 – ... | Intermediate Microeconomics (undergraduate level) |
| Fall 2016- ... | Development Economics (graduate level) |
| Fall 2018-... | Corruption in Developing Countries (undergraduate level) |
| Fall 2015 – Spring 2017 | Introduction to Econometrics (undergraduate level) |
| Fall 2012, 2013 and 2014 | Microeconomics Graduate Level (lecturer) PPD (Public Policy and Development) at Paris School of Economics |

AWARDS

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| 2026 | Ranked 5 th best economist in Colombia by IDEAS , based on publications in the last 10 years (ranking can slightly vary over time) |
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RACHID LAAJAJ

- 2013 Henry C. Taylor Award for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation, University of Wisconsin-Madison Dept. Ag. & App. Econ
- 2012 3rd price at the IBES (International Behavioral Economic Section) student paper competition at the AAEA meetings.
- 2011-2012 Louis and Elsa Thomsen Distinguished Graduate Fellowship, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2007-2008 University Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison

REFEREE REPORTS:

Journal of the European Economic Association, REStat, PNAS, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Political Economy Micro, Food Policy, World Development, Economic Development and Cultural Change, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Journal of Development Studies, Agricultural Economics, Journal of African Economies.
