

María Padilla-Romo

Department of Economics
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-0570

(865)974-1698
mpadill3@utk.edu
<https://sites.google.com/site/mariaspadillaromo/>

CURRENT POSITIONS

Associate Professor, University of Tennessee, Department of Economics, 2024-present
Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), 2024-present
Research Fellow, Institute of Labor Economics (IZA@LISER), 2022-present

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee, Department of Economics, 2017-2024

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Texas A&M University, May 2017
M.A. in Economics, Universidad de Guadalajara, July 2009
B.A. in Mathematics, Universidad de Guadalajara, July 2006

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor Economics, Development Economics, and Economics of Education.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. "Women as Caregivers: Full-Time Schools and Grandmothers' Labor Supply," with Francisco Cabrera-Hernández. *Review of Economics of the Household*, forthcoming.
2. "Persistence of the Spillover Effects of Violence and Educational Trajectories," with Cecilia Peluffo. *Journal of Development Economics*, 181: 103759, 2026.
3. "Improvements in Schooling Opportunities and Teen Births," with Lucas Nogueira Garcez, Cecilia Peluffo, and Mayra Pineda-Torres. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 236: 107120, 2025.
4. "Parents' Effective Time Endowment and Divorce: Evidence from Extended School Days," with Cecilia Peluffo and Mariana Viollaz. *Journal of Public Economics*, 242: 105302, 2025.
5. "Uneven Effects, an Evolutionary Model of Poverty Traps After Trade Liberalization," with Leopoldo Gómez-Ramírez. *Review of Political Economy*, 37(1): 183–201, 2025.
6. "Full-Time Schools and Educational Trajectories: Evidence from High-Stakes Exams," with Francisco Cabrera-Hernández and Cecilia Peluffo. *Economics of Education Review*, 96: 102443, 2023.
7. "When Crime Comes to the Neighborhood: Short-term Shocks to Student Cognition and Secondary Consequences," with Eunsik Chang. *Journal of Labor Economics*, 41(4): 997-1039, 2023.
8. "Violence-induced Migration and Peer Effects in Academic Performance," with Cecilia Peluffo. *Journal of Public Economics*, 217:104778, 2023.
9. "Some Benefit, Some Are Left Behind: NAFTA and Educational Attainment in the United States," with Leopoldo Gómez-Ramírez, *Economic Inquiry*, 60(4): 1581-1606, 2022.
10. "Full-Time Schools, Policy-Induced School Switching, and Academic Performance." *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 196: 79-103, 2022.

11. “Hidden Violence: How COVID-19 School Closures Reduced the Reporting of Child Maltreatment,” with Francisco Cabrera-Hernández, *Latin American Economic Review*, 29(4): 1-17, 2020.
12. “Easing the Constraints of Motherhood: The Effects of All-Day Schools on Mothers’ Labor Supply,” with Francisco Cabrera-Hernández, *Economic Inquiry*, 57(2): 890-909, 2019.
13. “Kingpin Approaches to Fighting Crime and Community Violence: Evidence from Mexico’s Drug War,” with Jason M. Lindo, *Journal of Health Economics*, 58: 253-268, 2018.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDITED VOLUMES

1. “Victimización en la Zona Metropolitana de Guadalajara,” with Irvin M. Soto Zazueta. *Ensayos Sobre Victimización, Percepción de Inseguridad y Corrupción en México*. México: 2015, editor Willy W. Cortez. pp. 33-54.
2. “La Espacialidad de la Victimización. Metodología y Caso,” with Mauricio Ramírez Grajeda. *Temas de Economía Pública Local*. México: 2011, editor Juan J. Jardon Urrieta. pp. 295-306.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1. “How early academic rank shapes high school choices and admissions,” with Eunsik Chang and Cecilia Peluffo. *VoxEU*, August 2026.
2. “How impacts of violence spread through Mexican schools,” with Cecilia Peluffo. *VoxDev*, April 2026.
3. “¿Debilitar a los cárteles o multiplicar la violencia? Evidencia sobre la captura de líderes criminales en México.” *SURCOS*, March 2026.
4. “Causas y Costos de la Violencia en México.” *Boletín de Política Económica* No. 20, January 2023.
5. “Kingpin Approaches to Fighting Crime and Community Violence: Evidence from Mexico’s Drug War,” with Jason M. Lindo. *Cato Research Briefs in Economic Policy* No. 31, July 2015.

WORKING PAPERS

1. “Marginal Admission to Elite High Schools: Long-run Effects on Labor Market Outcomes,” with Francisco Cabrera-Hernández, Andrew Dustan, and Daniel Osuna-Gómez. Submitted.
2. “Persistent Effects of Class Rank on Cognitive and Noncognitive Outcomes,” with Eunsik Chang and Cecilia Peluffo. Submitted.
3. “Long-term Pre-conception Exposure to Local Violence and Infant Health,” with Eunsik Chang and Sandra Orozco-Aleman. Submitted.
4. “Air Pollution and Students’ High-Stakes Exam Performance: Evidence from Mexico,” with Scott Holladay and Xin Jin. Submitted.
5. “Moving for Good: Educational Gains from Leaving Violence Behind,” with Cecilia Peluffo. Submitted.
6. “Kingpin Strategy, Violence, and Academic Performance,” with Cecilia Peluffo and Carlos Trejo-Pech. Submitted.
7. “Criminal Instruments: Shift-Share Designs and Collinearity,” with Enda Hargaden. Submitted.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. “When Success Hurts: Academic Rank and Peer Victimization in Schools,” with Eunsik Chang and Cecilia Peluffo.
2. “From Familiar Faces to Academic Gains: Network Effects During School Transitions,” with Xin Jin.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Tennessee

Economics Research Workshop (S 24, S 22, S 20)

Intermediate Microeconomics (F 22, S 18, F 17)

Introduction to Econometrics (F 25, S 25, S 24, S 23, S 22, S 21, F 20, S 20, S 19, F 18, S 18)

Texas A&M University

Microeconomic Theory (Summer 16)

Universidad de Guadalajara (CUCEA)

Econometrics I (Summer 15, F 09)

Econometrics II (S 10)

Mathematics III (F 10)

Microeconomics (Summer 15, Summer 14, Summer 13)

Statistics II (S 12, F 11, S 11, F 10)

Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente (ITESO)

Econometrics (S 12, F 11, S 11, F 10, S 10)

Universidad Panamericana (Business School, Campus Guadalajara)

Calculus (F 11)

Econometrics (S 11)

Financial Mathematics (S 12)

Linear Algebra (S 12, F 11)

Macroeconomics (F 11)

Preparatoria Hermosa Provincia

Logic (S 06, F 06)

Mathematics II (F 06)

Physics (S 07)

Secundaria Hermosa Provincia

Mathematics I, II, and III (2006-2007)

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Vallett Family Outstanding Researcher Award (May 2026)

John Quincy & Wanda Weems Wisecarver Faculty Research Fellow (2026-2027)

John Quincy & Wanda Weems Wisecarver Faculty Research Fellow (2025-2026)

John Quincy & Wanda Weems Wisecarver Faculty Research Fellow (2024-2025)

Finalist, Haslam College of Business Faculty Rising Star Researcher (May 2024)

John Quincy & Wanda Weems Wisecarver Faculty Research Fellow (2023-2024)

Finalist, Haslam College of Business Faculty Rising Star Researcher (May 2023)

Finalist, Haslam College of Business Diversity and Inclusion Award (May 2023)

Haslam Family Faculty Research Fellow (2022-2023)

Finalist, Haslam College of Business Diversity and Inclusion Award (October 2022)

Finalist, Haslam College of Business Faculty Rising Star Researcher (May 2022)

National System of Researchers (SNI), awarded by the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACyT, 2020-2023)

Women Deliver 2019 Conference Scholarship (June 2019)

S. Charles Maurice Fellowship in Economics, awarded by the Department of Economics (Texas A&M University, 2016)

Graduate Student Research Award, presented by the Hispanic/Latino Graduate Student Association for work in Latino/a Education (Texas A&M University, April 2016)

Second Place Among Graduate Researchers, Oral Presentation at the Student Research Week (Texas A&M University, 2016)

Bradley Fellow, awarded by the Private Enterprise Research Center, Texas A&M University (2015-2016)

M. H. Webber Scholar, awarded by the Private Enterprise Research Center, Texas A&M University (Summer 2014)

Graduate Assistantship, awarded by the Department of Economics (Texas A&M University, 2012-2017)

M.A. Studies National Scholarship, awarded by the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACyT), Mexico (2007-2009)

Outstanding Teacher (Secundaria Hermosa Provincia, May 2007)

Academic Excellence Award and Outstanding Student of the University Center of Exact Sciences and Engineering (Universidad de Guadalajara, October 2006)

Third Best GPA of the class of 2006, B.A. in Mathematics (Universidad de Guadalajara, July 2006)

Outstanding Undergraduate Female Student in Mathematics (Universidad de Guadalajara, March 2006)

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University of Tennessee

2026-present	Faculty Advisor, Association of Latino Professionals for America
2022-present	Graduate Studies Committee
2025-2026	Tenure & Promotion Ad Hoc Committee
2023-2026	Faculty Advisor, Latino Business Student Association
2023-2026	Undergraduate Research Advisory Council
2019-2024	Policy Committee
Summer 2022	Second Year Paper Committee
2021-2022	Faculty Search Committee
2018-2020	Undergraduate Committee

Spring 2019 Judge at EURēCA Conference
Spring 2019 Department Head Search Committee
2017-2018 Faculty Search Committee

Texas A&M University

2015-2016 Department's Representative at the Graduate and Professional Students Council (GPSC)
2015-2016 Member of the GPSC's Research Committee

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Mentor: ASHE Job Market Candidates (2024); AMIE Job Market Candidates (2024); CSWEP mentoring workshop for third- and fourth-year female and non-binary graduate students in economics (November 2022); *Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics (AMIE)* (2021-2022); *UT Promise*, University of Tennessee (2020-2023); and *Women Leaders in STEM, U.S.-Mexico Leaders Network* (2019-2023).

Conference/workshop organizing: organizer of presidential sessions at the Southern Economic Association (invited 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025); co-founder (with Andrew Dustan and Ketki Sheth) of the Development Economics in the South (DevSouth) workshop; and program committee of the 2023 DevSouth workshop.

Editorial Board: *EconoQuantum* (2019-present)

Referee: *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *American Journal of Health Economics*, *Applied Economics*, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, *Demography*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Economic Modelling*, *Economics of Education Review*, *EconoQuantum*, *Education Finance and Policy*, *European Journal of Development Research*, *Explorations in Economic History*, *Health Economics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of Economic History*, *Journal of Health Economics*, *Journal of Human Capital*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of Population Economics*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of Regional Science*, *Latin American Economic Review*, *Labour Economics*, *Review of Economics of the Household*, *Southern Economic Journal*, and *World Bank Economic Review*.

Grant Review: *Spencer Foundation*.

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING

University of Tennessee

Xin Jin (chair, in progress)
Debanjali Dasgupta (Ph.D. in Economics, 2026)
Trenton Marble (Ph.D. in Economics, 2026)
Trinity Douglass (Ph.D. in Economics, 2026)
Lucas Nogueira Garcez (co-chair, Ph.D. in Economics, 2024)
Michael Charysh (Ph.D. in Economics, 2023)
Cathy Wu (Ph.D. in Economics, 2023)
Bokseong Jeong (Ph.D. in Economics, 2022)
Richard Beem (Ph.D. in Economics, 2022)
Eunsik Chang (Ph.D. in Economics, 2021)
Sangwon Lee (Ph.D. in Economics, 2020)

Universidad de Guadalajara

Huentli Yolotli Suárez Espinosa (co-chair, Doctor in Economic and Management Sciences, 2024)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING

University of Tennessee

Abram Bingham (Chancellor's Program, 2026-2027)

Natalie Varga (Chancellor's Program, 2022-2023)

Lexie Judd (Chancellor's Program, 2020-2021)

Lauren Gateley (HS Program, 2019-2021)

Luke Norton (GLS Program, 2018-2019)

Universidad de Guadalajara

Víctor Hugo Álvarez Cervantes (B.A. in Mathematics, 2009-2010)

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

[“Cierre de escuelas de tiempo completo, impacto directo para madres trabajadoras,”](#) 04/11/2022, El Economista

[“Maltrato infantil se detecta 30% menos en CDMX con las escuelas cerradas, advierten especialistas,”](#) 01/22/2021,

Animal Político

[“What History Says Will Happen Next in Iran,”](#) 01/07/2020, The Atlantic

[“¿Qué sabemos de las causas de los homicidios?,”](#) 01/11/2019, Animal Político

[“Las escuelas de tiempo completo y la equidad educativa,”](#) 11/07/2018, Nexos

[“Escuelas de Tiempo Completo: Claroscuro,”](#) 10/01/2018, Nexos

[“Programa Escuelas de Tiempo Completo: resultados positivos y lecciones aprendidas,”](#) 04/25/2018, Nexos

[“Will Nabbing of ‘El Chapo’ Actually Help Mexico Win the War on Drugs?,”](#) 01/23/2016, Newsweek

[“El Chapo Shows the Folly of the War on Drugs,”](#) 01/21/2016, Time

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

- 2026 Southeastern Micro Labor Workshop (University of Tennessee), IV IEB Workshop on Public Policies (Barcelona, Spain), and Southern Economic Association Conference (Houston, Texas).
- 2025 NBER SI Children and Families (Boston, Massachusetts), WEAI Annual Meeting (San Francisco, California), SOLE Annual Meeting (Toronto, Canada), DevSouth (University of Georgia), MidSouth Education Policy Workshop (University of Kentucky), ASHE Virtual Seminar Series, and Federal University of Paraíba (Virtual).
- 2024 ASSA Annual Meeting (San Antonio, Texas), Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico City), Atlanta Workshop on Public Policy and Child Well-being (Georgia Tech), and Southern Economic Association Conference (Washington, DC).
- 2023 Clemson University, Syracuse University, University of Alabama at Birmingham, ASSA Annual Meeting, Southern Economic Association Conference, Southeastern Micro Labor Workshop (University of Georgia), Atlanta Workshop on Public Policy and Child Well-Being (Georgia Tech), Development Economics in the South Workshop (University of Tennessee), Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral (Guayaquil, Ecuador), and Banco de México.
- 2022 Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics (SITE) Conference on Gender Economics, Virtual Crime Economics (ViCE) seminar, the University of Arizona, American Society of Hispanic Economists (ASHE) Seminar Research Series, Southeastern Micro Labor Workshop (University of South Carolina), LACEA Conference (Lima, Peru), Southern Economic Association Conference, Congreso Anual de Economía y de Políticas Públicas Sobre México (Universidad Iberoamericana), Universidad de Guadalajara, Seminario de Violencias Estructurales at Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE), and Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (Lima, Perú).

- 2021 Education, Health and Inequality Mini-Conference (Indiana University); RWI - Leibniz Institute for Economic Research; AEFPP Conference; Southeastern Micro Labor Workshop; Universidad de Monterrey; Southern Economic Association Conference; and APPAM Conference.
- 2020 IZA & Jacobs Center Workshop: Consequences of COVID-19 for Child and Youth Development, Centro de Estudios Espinosa Yglesias, Southern Economic Association Conference, Universidad del Norte (Barranquilla, Colombia), HSE University (Moscow, Russia), Universidad de Guadalajara (Guadalajara, Mexico), AEFPP Conference, and Southeastern Micro Labor Workshop.
- 2019 Southeastern Health Economics Study Group, Southern Economic Association Conference, LACEA Conference, Vanderbilt University, Women Deliver Conference, and Western Economic Association International Conference.
- 2018 CSWEP-CeMENT Mentoring Workshop (Philadelphia), IZA Gender and Family Economics (Barnard College), AEFPP 43rd Annual Conference (Portland), Vision 2027: Evaluation of the Ten Years of Mexico's Full-Time Schools Program (Mexico City), Tennessee Empirical Applied Microeconomics Festival (Knoxville), University of Kentucky, Miami University, National Meeting: Challenges + Strategies = Achievements of Mexico's Full-Time Schools Program (Mexico City), Seminario de Evaluación de la Política Pública: Programa Escuelas de Tiempo Completo (PETC) – Evaluación de los 10 Años del Programa (Campeche, Mexico), Third Workshop on Poverty, Inequality, and Public Insecurity (Universidad de Guadalajara), and Southern Economic Association Conference (Washington DC).
- 2017 NBER Summer Institute, Annual Southeastern Health Economics Study Group (Vanderbilt), New Frontiers in Development Economics Conference (UConn), University of Tennessee, Emporia University, and Banco de México.
- 2016 Southern Economic Association Conference, Stata Empirical Microeconomics Conference, and ASHE Conference.
- 2015 Southern Economic Association Conference, Stata Empirical Microeconomics Conference, and ASHE Conference.
- 2010 Second International Seminar on Local Public Economics (Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás Hidalgo).
- 2009 Mexican Symposium of Mathematical Economics and Econometrics (Instituto Politécnico Nacional), guest speaker at Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí.