

## Florencia Clara López Bóo

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Lead of the early childhood development (ECD) agenda at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and coordinator of the ECD Innovation Fund. Leading initiative on behavioural economics and social policies. Work on the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of ECD and social protection public policies. Chair of the Behavioral Insights Network of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA). Advisor on ECD for the G-20 meetings (2018). Part of advisory board of the Chilean government on childcare quality agenda.

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### EDUCATION

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**PhD (DPhil) in Economics**, University of Oxford, St Antony's College (2009)

*Thesis title: Essays on income inequality, the skill premium and schooling decisions*

**MPhil in Economics (with distinction)**, Catholic University of Louvain (2003)

**MSc. in Development Economics (highest distinction)**, University of Namur (2001)

**BA in Economics (Magna Cum Laude)**, University of Buenos Aires (2000)

### EMPLOYMENT

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2009-

**Lead Economist**, *Inter-American Development Bank*, Social Protection and Health Unit.

#### *Operations*

- Manage portfolio of 20 projects across 8 countries and a team of 5 in Latin America (LAC).
- Lead the ECD Innovation fund with 16 projects for US\$ 10M.
- Work on operations supporting conditional cash transfers such as Bolivia's *Bono Juana Azurduy*, Jamaica's *PATH* and Honduras' *Bono 10000*.
- Technical lead in ECD interventions, such as Argentina's *Primeros Años*, *Plan Nacional de Primera Infancia*, Brazil's *Cresca com Seu Filho*, *Primeira Infancia Melhor* and *Familia que Acolhe*, Chile *Crece Contigo*, Paraguay's *Modelo de Atención al Desarrollo Infantil*, Uruguay's *Sistema Nacional Integrado de Cuidados*, *CAIF*, and *Uruguay Crece Contigo*, Nicaragua's *Amor para los más chiquitos*, and Jamaica's *Reach Up*.
- Highlight: Approval of complex multi-sector US\$ 1.2 billion loan to support Argentina's ECD Plan.

#### *Policy dialogue and analytical work*

- Advise and policy dialogue in the region, including being a G20 knowledge partner in ECD in 2018
- Lead of numerous analytical products, with portfolio of 12 impact evaluations with budget of US\$ 7M
- Lead of initiative on behavioural economics and social policies (25 active operations). Founder and chair of the behavioral economist's network of LACEA.
- Founder, editor and contributor of IDB's ECD *Primeros Pasos* blog, the 2<sup>nd</sup> most-read (1M page views).
- Represent the Bank in global advisory boards (Brookings, the National Academy of Sciences, Lancet Steering Committee).
- Highlight: Supporting the first *nudge unit* in the region at the President's office in Uruguay ([press](#) article).

2008-2009

**Young Professional**, *Inter-American Development Bank*, Research Department

- Produced background papers and chapters for flagship publications on quality of life, productivity and ICT.
- Led the first-ever IDB network on ECD.

2007

**Postdoctoral Fellow**, *Department of International Development, University of Oxford*

- Led research on poverty with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development ([OPHI](#)) team.

2005-2007

**Research Fellow**, Department of Economics at LSE /Cambridge University/UCL

- Econometric analysis of UK Education panel, led to book “Low Achievement in English Schools” ([link](#)) featured in BBC, the Guardian, and The Independent papers.

2005-2007

**Consultant**, *Research Department and IEG, World Bank*

- Supported World Bank researchers to analyze complex data and write results for flagship publications.

## **OTHER AFFILIATIONS**

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Research Fellow, *Young Lives, Department of International Development, University of Oxford*

Senior Research Fellow, *IZA Institute of Labor, Bonn* and *Centro Estudios Desarrollo Humano, Universidad San Andres*

## **PUBLICATIONS** [selected]

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### **Peer reviewed journals**

*G20's Initiative for Early Childhood Development*, with L. Richter, C Desmond, J Behrman, P Britto. **The Lancet**, doi: 10.1016/s0140-6736(18)33058-7. 2019.

*Cash, Conditions, and Child Development: Experimental Evidence from a Cash Transfer Program in Honduras*, with J. Creamer. **Economía** 19 (2): 169-196. 2019.

*Validity of four measures of childcare quality in a national sample of centers in Ecuador*, with M. Dormal, and A. Weber **PloS One** 14(2). 2019. Video abstract featured in You Tube ([link](#)).

*Developing a System of Protection for Young Children in Uruguay: Understanding the Link between the Home Environment and Child Development*, with M. Cubides, R. Sorio, G. Garibotto and C. Berón. **Zero to Three**, Vol. 38 (4): 51-54. 2018. Featured in Uruguayan press ([link](#)).

*Assessing the quality of home visit parenting programs in Latin America and the Caribbean*, with J. Leer. **Early Child Development and Care**, 1-14. 2018.

*Investing in the foundation of sustainable development: pathways to scale up for early childhood development*, with L. Richter, J. Lombardi, B. Daelmans, et al. **The Lancet**, [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(16\)](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(16)). 2016.

- Featured in worldwide press. Launched in ~50 countries. Lead LAC launches, including invitation of Chilean President M. Bachelet to present in Santiago de Chile I 2017.

*Advancing Early Childhood Development: from Science to Scale*, Executive Summary in Spanish **The Lancet**, [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(16\)](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(16)). 2016.

*Chile Crece Contigo: Implementation, Results and Scaling-Up Lessons*, with R. Perez-Escamilla and A. Torre. **Child: Care, Health & Development**. 44(1):4-11. doi: 10.1111/cch.12519. 2018.

*Análisis del bienestar, la salud y el desarrollo de los niños del Programa Cresca com Seu Filho en Fortaleza*, with M. Cubides and S. Duryea. **Revista de Saude Publica**, Vol. 52 (84). 2018.

*Early Child Development and Nutrition: A Review of the Benefits and Challenges of Implementing Integrated Interventions*, with K. Hurley, and A. Yousafzai. **Advances in Nutrition** Vol. 7: 357-363. 2016.

*Socio-economic status and early childhood cognitive skills: A mediation analysis using the Young Lives panel International*. **Journal of Behavioral Development**. Vol 40 (6): 500-508. 2016.

*Integrating a Parenting Intervention with Routine Primary Health Care: A Cluster Randomized Trial*, with S. Chang, S. Grantham-McGregor, C. Powell, M. Vera-Hernández, H. Baker-Henningham, S. Walker. **Pediatrics**. Vol 136 (2): 272-280. 2015.

*Wealth gradients in early childhood cognitive development in five Latin American countries*, with N. Schady, J. Behrman, and others, **Journal of Human Resources**. Vol 50 (2). 2015.

*Los servicios de cuidado infantil en América Latina y el Caribe*, with C. Araujo. **El Trimestre Económico**. Vol 82 (326): 249-275. 2015.

*Social divisions in school participation and attainment in India*, with M. Asadullah and U. Kambhampati, **Cambridge Journal of Economics**. Vol. 38 (4):869-893. 2014.

*Economic Perspectives on Integrating Early Child Stimulation with Nutritional Interventions*, with H. Alderman, J. Behrman, S. Grantham and S. Urzua. **Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences**. Vol. 1308: 129–138. 2014.

*Cost–benefit analysis of a micronutrient supplementation and early childhood stimulation program in Nicaragua*, with G. Palloni and S. Urzua. **Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences**. Vol. 1308: 139–148. 2014.

*Reversal of gender gaps in child development: Evidence from India*. **Economics Letters**. Vol. 124 (1): 55–59. 2014.

*Intervenciones de estimulación infantil temprana en los países en vías de desarrollo: lo que funciona, por qué y para quién*, with H. Henningham. **Económica**. Vol. 60: 120-186. 2014.

*The Labor Market Return to an Attractive Face: Evidence from a Field Experiment*, with M. Rossi and S. Urzua. **Economics Letters** Vol. 118 (1): 170–172. 2013. Featured in newspapers from Argentina, Chile and Germany.

*In School or at Work: Evidence from a Crisis*, **Oxford Development Studies** Vol.40 (3): 381-404. 2012.

*Part-Time Work, Gender and Job Satisfaction: Evidence from a Developing Country*, with C. Pages and L. Madrigal **Journal of Development Studies**. Vol.46 (9): 1543-1571. 2010.

### **Books and book chapters**

*Nudges para mejorar vidas*. In *Aportes de la economía del comportamiento y la opinión pública a la integración* by Basco A., De Azevedo G, and Garcia P., editors, Revista I & C: Año 23: No. 45, INTAL-BID-Planeta. 2019

*The Labor Market Return to ICT Skills: a Field Experiment*, with M. Blanco. In *Information Technologies and Economic Development in Latin America* by A. Chong and M. Yáñez-Pagans, editors. Anthem Press, London. 2019.

*Primeira Infancia Melhor: Transformando a atenção aos primeiros anos da vida na América Latina: desafios e conquistas de uma política pública no sul do Brasil*, **IDB/FMCVS/PIM Monograph** 2017.

*How to measure Child Care Quality for Infants & Toddlers*, with M. Araujo and R. Tome. **IDB Book** (also in Spanish). 2016.

- Top-3 IDB publication in 2016 by downloads (55K).

*Family First and Raising Children: The Case for Government Intervention in The Early Years: Child Well-Being and the Role of Public Policy*, edited by N. Schady and S. Berlinski **IDB Book, Palgrave Mc Millan**. 2015.

Overview of early childhood Development services in Latin America and the Caribbean, with M. C. Araujo and J.M Puyana, **IDB Monograph** (also in Spanish). 2013.

## WORKING PAPERS, WORK IN PROGRESS AND IN PRESS

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*Lessons from Behavioral Economics to Improve Treatment Adherence in Parenting Programs* with N. Ajzenman, **IDB technical note**. 2019.

*10 Lessons from the Behavioral Sciences for Policymaking in the Social Sector*, with N. Ajzenman, **IDB technical note**. 2019.

*Cost-Effective Public Daycare benefits Children and Mothers*, with A. Hojman, **IDB-WP**. 2019.

*Sex differences in language and socio-emotional skills: evidence from large scale studies of very young children*, with R. Bando, **IDB-WP-714**. 2016

## RELEVANT COURSES

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Awarded certificate of completion for **Applying Behavioral Insights to the Design of Public Policy Program**, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Executive Education (2018)

**Executive Course Leadership in Early Childhood Development**, Harvard University, Center for the Developing Child. (2013)

## MEDIA APPEARANCES [selected]

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2020

- La Nación (Argentina): interview with Sofia Diamante ([link](#))

2019

- Facebook live “Behavioral insights for intimate partner violence“ (18k views, top of all 2019 FB lives at IDB([link](#)))
- El País (España): *Conversaciones infantiles que evitan catástrofes* ([link](#)), *Así afecta el entorno económico a la crianza de los hijos* ([link](#))
- La Nación (Argentina): Op-ed *Tres razones de peso para invertir en primera infancia* ([link](#)), *Tras el voto indeciso: pequeños estímulos para grandes cambios* ([link](#)), *Qué nos enseña la economía sobre el cuidado de los hijos* ([link](#)), *Rarezas que estudia la economía del comportamiento* ([link](#))
- Infobae (Argentina): *El rol de las neurociencias en las políticas públicas* ([link](#))
- Intramed (LAC): *Cerebro y Sociedad* ([link](#))
- Revista Perfil (Argentina): *Un puente entre las ciencias y las políticas públicas* ([link](#))
- La Diaria (Uruguay): Op-ed *La economía del comportamiento y su aporte a las políticas públicas*
- Revista Dinero (Colombia): *Crianza de los hijos depende de desigualdad de los países* ([link](#))
- Tele13 (Chile): *Mineduc confirma la creación de consejo asesor para calidad de educación parvularia* ([link](#)), El Mercurio (Chile): Op-ed *Calidad de la educación inicial: un desafío país* ([link](#))
- La Razón (Bolivia): *Las consecuencias de no jugar con los hijos* ([link](#)).

2018

- El País (España): Blogs *Las consecuencias de que papá y mamá no sepan jugar* ([link](#)) and *La primera infancia cautiva al G20* ([link](#))
- Two Facebook lives with IDB President “El Presidente del BID sobre economía del comportamiento” ([link](#)) and “Qué políticas públicas acompañan el desarrollo infantil” ([link](#))
- Salgalu TV “Dialogo por la infancia latinoamericana ([link](#))”.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (PAST 10 YEARS)

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2019            3<sup>rd</sup> IZA Workshop on Family and Gender Economics (Vina del Mar).

- 2018 National Research Conference on Early Childhood (Washington DC).
- 2017 LACEA (Buenos Aires), Impact Evaluation Network LACEA (Washington).
- 2016 CIES conference (Washington DC)  
PAA conference (Washington DC)  
National Academy of Sciences (Washington DC).
- 2015 Experimental Biology (San Francisco).
- 2014 National Association for the Education of Young Children (Washington DC)  
National Academy of Sciences (Sao Paulo).
- 2013 Young Lives Conference (Oxford)  
New York Academy of Sciences (New York).
- 2012 NEUDC (Darmouth College)  
New York Academy of Sciences (New York)
- 2011 Population Association of America (Washington DC)  
LACEA (Santiago de Chile).
- 2010 Royal Economic Society (Guildford)  
Population Association of America (Dallas).

#### **INVITED SEMINARS/TALKS [selected]**

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- 2019 Keynote speaker at the Global Child Poverty and Neuroscience Conference, Center of Neuroscience and Society, University of Pennsylvania (talk [here](#)), Seminar at Universidad de San Andres (Buenos Aires), Speaker at Behavioral Exchange 2019 (talk [here](#), London), Speaker at Simposio de Neurociencias y Politicas Publicas (Argentina), Foro Calidad en Educación Parvularia (Palacio La Moneda, Chile).
- 2018 Young Lives seminar, Lima, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Annual Oxford Symposium in Comparative Education (OXSCIE) (Keble College, Oxford) (declined), National Research Conference on Early Childhood (Washington, DC), G20 steering committee meetings of the Development Working Group (April, Buenos Aires, July, Tucuman and September, Buenos Aires).
- 2017 Bahamas Government, Pediatric Academic Societies (San Francisco), IDB-INECO Launch of 1<sup>st</sup> Behavioural Sciences and Public Policies Network (Buenos Aires).
- 2016 Keynote at meeting with 24 Ministries of Social Development at Argentina's President's office, Government of Argentina, Regional Policy Dialogue on quality of ECD in Washington, Government of Mexico/Un kilo de Ayuda, The New School and Equity for Children, Barbados Government/PAHO meeting, RTI, Government of Chile/UNICEF meeting with President Bachelet introduction, CIPECC/World Bank/Government of Argentina. *Note: many global invitations to launch the Lancet series were declined due to time constraints.*
- 2015 Experimental Biology Symposium, National Academy of Sciences, Seminario Grupo de Estudios de Familia, UDELAR (Uruguay), NIP meetings (Uruguay), PAHO Annual Ministries of Health meeting (Washington, DC), Keynote speaker at events with President Vázquez, Government of Uruguay (Presentation featured in Uruguayan newspapers).

2014 New York Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Sciences, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Lancet Steering Committee on ECD (Geneva, Toronto), Brookings group on ECD costing, World Bank.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

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*2017-2019*

- Advisor Government of Chile on childcare quality (Consejo Asesor para Calidad de Educación Parvularia, [link](#)).
- Award \$1M UKRI-GCRF Early Child Education grant
- Top 100 (out of 800) project in the \$1M Early Childhood Innovation Prize (OpenIDEO/Gary Community Investments).
- Lancet paper work featured at United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

*2002-2016*

- CONICET award to study child development in Argentina (declined).
- Clarendon scholar and Oxford University Press award (70 awards out of 1,000 applicants).
- Belgian government scholarship for MSc. in Development Economics.

## **REFERREING AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ACTIVITIES** [available upon request]

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## **PERSONAL**

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Nationality: Argentine and Spanish

Languages: Fluent in English and French. Mother tongue: Spanish.

Web: [Google scholar](#)