

# Alejandro Gutierrez-Li, Ph.D.

January 29, 2025

North Carolina State University  
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## EDUCATION

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### WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Ph.D. in Economics, May 2020

*Dissertation:* Essays on Immigration and Entrepreneurship

*Committee:* Barton Hamilton, Costas Azariadis, George-Levi Gayle

M.A. in Economics, 2016

### ITAM (MEXICO CITY)

M.A. in Economic Theory

### UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA

Licenciatura in Economics

B.A. in Economics (with highest honors)

## PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

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### NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

August 2020-present:

Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Member, Graduate Faculty, Department of Economics, Poole College of Management

Extension Economist, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Faculty Affiliate, Plant Sciences Initiative, November 2022-present

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Labor economics, applied microeconomics, economics of immigration, entrepreneurship

## RESEARCH

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### Published and forthcoming

7. Automatic Milking Systems: Labor-Savings Route or Costly Gamble for Dairy Farmers? (with Cesar Escalante, Shaheer Burney, Grace Melo, and Shree Acharya). [Choices](#). December 2024.

6. Home Country Work Experience and Immigrant Self-Employment in the United States. [International Migration Review](#). October 2024.

5. H-2A Workers' Preferences for Job Attributes: Evidence from an Experiment (with Rodolfo Nayga, Jeffrey Luckstead, Wei Yang, Bernardita Sallato, and Karina Gallardo). [\*Journal of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association\*](#). September 2024.
4. The Self-Employment Effects of Secure Communities in the United States (with Raffi Garcia). [\*American Economic Association Papers and Proceedings\*](#). May 2023.  
—*Recipient of the best paper award on Hispanics' Business and Entrepreneurship research by the Kauffman Foundation and the American Society of Hispanic Economists.*
3. Self-Employment and Migration: Evidence from Mexico. [\*American Economic Association Papers and Proceedings\*](#). May 2022.
2. Market Power, Economies of Scale and Scope in the Costa Rican Banking System During the Period of 1997-2009 (published in Spanish as Poder de mercado, Economías de Escala y de Ámbito en el Sistema Bancario Costarricense Durante el Periodo 1997-2009). [\*Serie de Divulgación Económica\*](#), IICE, Universidad de Costa Rica, 28. 2014
1. Determinants and Differences in Tax Moral in Central America. An analysis From the 2005 Latinobarometer (published in Spanish as Determinantes y Diferencias en la Moral Fiscal en Centroamérica. Un análisis desde el Latinobarómetro 2005). [\*Revista de Ciencias Económicas\*](#), Universidad de Costa Rica, 29.1. 2011

### **Working Papers**

The Effects of Ongoing Internal Immigration Enforcement on the U.S. Agricultural Labor Supply (with Joaquin Rubalcaba) —*Revise and Resubmit*

The Labor Market Engagement of Immigrants Across Borders

Business Ownership and Mexico-U.S. Immigration

The Self-Employment Outcomes of Immigrants in America: Does Work Experience Abroad Matter?

### **Work in Progress**

The Self-Employment Paths of Immigrants in America (with Daisoon Kim)

Routes to Business Growth: A look at the Dairy Sector (with Margaret Jodlowski and Jared Hutchins)

Climate Change and Farm Labor Availability (with Roderick Rejesus)

### **COMPETITIVE GRANTS**

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Caterpillar Foundation, Co-P.I., **\$86,761**; 2024-2026

Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education, Co-P.I., **\$345,000**; 2023-2026

Northern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education, Co-P.I., **\$249,945**; 2022-2024

National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA), P.I., **\$20,000**; 2021-2026

North Carolina Christmas Tree Association, P.I., **\$3,000**; 2020-2023

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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### **a) Fellowships, Scholarships, and Distinctions**

NC State Impact Scholar, 2022

Best paper award on Hispanics' business and entrepreneurship research, Kauffman

Foundation and American Society of Hispanic Economists, 2022

University fellowship, Washington University, 2014-2019

Summer research fellowship, Washington University, 2016-2019

Preparation in pedagogy certificate, Teaching Center, Washington University, 2019

Master studies fellowship, ITAM, 2012-2014

Academic excellence scholarship, University of Costa Rica, 2006-2011

Graduation with highest honors, University of Costa Rica

Dr. Frankin Chang Díaz scholarship for English studies, American-Costa Rican Cultural Center (CCCN), 2009-2010

### **b) Competitive Travel Awards**

Russell Sage Foundation, 2023

Institute for Humane Studies, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023 (x2), 2024

Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association, 2022

American Economic Association, 2022, 2024

Diversity Initiative for Tenure in Economics, 2021, 2022 (x2)

Washington University in St. Louis, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020

### **c) External Mentoring Programs (Competitively Selected)**

Mentee, Diversity Initiative for Tenure in Economics, Duke University, 2020-2022

Mentee, Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association, Career Advancement Program, 2023-2025

### **d) Invited Participant (Competitively Selected)**

Summer Institute in Migration Research Methods, Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative. University of California Berkeley, June 2023 and June 2024 (Berkeley, CA)

Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp, National Bureau of Economic Research, July 2017 (Boston, MA). Keynote speaker: Dr. Oliver Hart, Economics Nobel Laureate and Distinguished Professor of Economics at Harvard University

Summer School in Socioeconomic Inequality, Human Capital and Economic Opportunity, University of Chicago, July 2016 (Chicago, IL)

## RESEARCH CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

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### **2025**

American Economic Association/ASSA Annual Meeting (San Francisco, CA)

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (Denver, CO)

Im/migrant Scholar Collaborative: Research & Policy Conference (St. Petersburg, FL)

## **2024**

Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA)  
UC Berkeley, Summer Institute in Migration Research Methods (Berkeley, CA)  
Southern Economic Association (Washington, DC)  
Western Economic Association International (Seattle, WA)  
Michigan State University, Agricultural Labor Conference (East Lansing, MI)  
Farm Labor Conference, USDA and Farm Foundation (Santa Cruz, CA)  
AEA Summer Mentoring Pipeline Conference (Washington, DC)  
Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (New Orleans, LA)  
Virginia Tech, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, invited seminar (Blacksburg, VA)

## **2023**

Downstream Effects of Covid-19 Restrictions on Immigration (San Diego, CA)  
Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (Washington, DC)  
UC Berkeley, Summer Institute in Migration Research Methods (Berkeley, CA)  
UC Davis (pres. by coauthor)  
NBER Immigrants and the U.S. Economy Conference (virtual; invited discussant only)  
American Economic Association/ASSA Annual Meeting (pres. by coauthor)

## **2022**

Southern Economic Association Annual Conference (Fort Lauderdale, FL)  
American Society of Hispanic Economists (virtual)  
Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (Anaheim, CA)  
DITE, Duke University (Durham, NC)  
AEA Summer Mentoring Pipeline Conference (Washington, DC)  
Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (Mystic, CT)  
City University of New York (CUNY)-Lehman College (virtual)  
American Economic Association/ASSA Annual Meeting (virtual)

## **2021**

DITE Annual Research Conference (Washington, DC)  
Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (Austin, TX)  
Western Economic Association International (virtual; presenter and discussant)  
CSMGEP-CSWEP/WEAI (virtual; presenter and discussant)  
Triangle Applied Microeconomics Conference (virtual)  
Midwest Economics Association Annual Meeting (virtual)

## **2020**

DITE (virtual)  
ITAM Alumni Conference (virtual)  
Tecnológico de Monterrey (virtual)

## **2019**

Southern Economic Association Annual Conference (Fort Lauderdale, FL)  
Latin American Meeting of the Econometric Society (Puebla, Mexico)

Economics Graduate Student Conference (St. Louis, MO)  
Midwest International Trade Fall Conference (St. Louis, MO)  
Indiana University (Bloomington, IN)  
Midwest Economics Association/Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting (presenter and discussant) (St. Louis, MO)  
Washington University (St. Louis, MO)

## 2018

Washington University (St. Louis, MO)

## 2017

Washington University (St. Louis, MO)

## MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

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¿Cuánto Aportan los Inmigrantes Indocumentados a la Economía de Estados Unidos? *CNN in Spanish*. (January 22, 2025).

Interview about Migrant Workers. *Supermarket News*. (January 10, 2025).

AAEA Column. *Members in the News*. (November 18, 2024).

Washington State Farm Workers Worry about Boom in Legal Foreign Workers.

*The Guardian*. (November 14, 2024).

Interview With an Expert: Who are the Workers Harvesting Our Food? Guestworkers and Their Benefits for the Country. *Entry Point Newsletter*. (June 13, 2024).

Migrant Workers' Vital Role in Agriculture: A Conversation with Alejandro Gutierrez-Li. Policy Brief. *Center for the U.S. and Mexico, Baker Institute at Rice University*. (April 10, 2024).

Best & Worst States for Jobs (2023). Ask the Experts. *WalletHub*. (November 29, 2023).

Interview about the Farm Workforce Modernization Bill. *Politico*. (September 20, 2023).

2023's States with the Highest Resignation Job Rates. Ask the Experts. *WalletHub*. (September 19, 2023).

Interview about the H-2A program. *Charlotte Observer*. (September 11, 2023).

The Hands That Feed Us. *NC State Bulletin, NC PSI News, and ARE News*. (August 29, 2023).

Interview About Immigrant Labor in Florida. *Miami Herald*. (August 18, 2023).

Interview About Employment Outlook for Hispanics and Blacks. *New York City News Service*. (March 22, 2023).

Lab Rats to Field Mice: The N.C. Plant Sciences Initiative's Inaugural Backroad Tour. *CALS News*. (November 1, 2022).

AAEA Column. *Members in the News*. (September 19, 2022).

Food Costs up 10% in a Year, But Immigration Reform Might Help, Some Experts Say. *The National Desk*. (September 8, 2022).

AAEA Column. *Members in the News*. (September 12, 2022).

Farmers Push for Immigration Reform to Counter Labor Shortages and Rising Food Prices

*NBC News*. (September 5, 2022).

From Robots to Customers: Exploring New Opportunities for Dairy Farmers. *CALS News*. (August 2, 2022).

AAEA Column. *Members in the News*. (March 7, 2022).

Labor Shortage for NC Farmers Ripples Across Broader Economy. *Triangle Business Journal*. (February 18, 2022).

Gutierrez-Li Selected for NC State Impact Scholars Program. *ARE January Newsletter*. (January 27, 2022) and *CALS News*. (February 1, 2022).

Interview About the H-2A Visa Program. *Triangle Business Journal*. (January 13, 2022).

AAEA Column. *Members in the News*. (August 16, 2021).

US Jobless Claims Rose to 419,000 Last Week. *Wall Street Journal* (and others). (July 22, 2021).

*North Carolina Farm Bureau Report*. (November 6, 2020).

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**ITAM**, Center for Economics Research (CIE)

Research assistant, 2013-2014

**UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA**, Economics Institute of Research (IICE)

Economics researcher, 10/2010-12/2011

Research assistant, 05/2008-09/2010

**CENTRAL BANK OF COSTA RICA (BCCR)**

Summer internship, 06/2013-07/2013

## POLICY/OUTREACH WORK

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### Policy/Outreach Peer-Reviewed Publications

16. The State of Agriculture in North Carolina: Lessons from the 2022 Census (with Jeffrey Dorfman). *NC State Economist*. 2024, Issue 3.

15. Feeding America: How Immigrants Sustain US Agriculture. Center for the U.S. and Mexico. Houston: [Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy](#). July 19, 2024,

14. The Costs and Benefits of Mechanization: A Look at the Dairy Sector (with Cesar Escalante and Shree Acharya)  
*Southern Ag Today* 4(16.3). April 17, 2024

13. Reforming the H-2A Guest Farmworker Visa Program: Sectoral Coverage Expansion and Workers' Path to Permanent Residency (with Cesar Escalante and Shree Acharya)  
*Southern Ag Today* 4(10.3). March 6, 2024

12. What is the TN Visa Program?  
*Southern Ag Today* 3(7.3). February 14, 2024

11. How to Protect Farmworkers During Heat Waves?  
*Southern Ag Today* 3(30.5). July 28, 2023

10. Labor Needs of North Carolina Christmas Tree Growers. *Limbs & Needles*. NC Christmas Tree Association. Spring/Summer 2023
9. New Rules for the Calculation of H-2A Workers' Wages. *Southern Ag Today* 3(26.3). June 28, 2023
8. The Christmas Tree Industry in North Carolina: Characteristics and Challenges Ahead. (2023). *NC State Economist*. November-December 2022, Part 2.
7. Adverse Effect Wage Rates of H-2A Workers Increase in 2023. *Southern Ag Today* 3(3.5). January 20, 2023
6. Urban Development and Farm Labor Scarcity: Are Workers Leaving Agriculture for Construction? *Southern Ag Today* 2(50.5). December 9, 2022
5. Job Market Behavior During Pandemic Times. *Southern Ag Today* 2(33.5). August 12, 2022
4. Immigration Projects under Discussion: Why do They Matter for the Agricultural Labor Supply? *Southern Ag Today* 2(32.5). August 5, 2022
3. The H-2A Visa Program: Addressing Farm Labor Scarcity in North Carolina. (2021). *NC State Economist*. Summer 2021. —Featured by the *NC Farm Bureau, Daily Briefing*, 7/14/21
2. The H-2A Visa Program in North Carolina. (2021). Factsheets, NC State Extension Publications.
1. Analysis of the Contribution of Recreational and Commercial Fisheries to the Costa Rican Economy, with Fernández, C; González, G; Lucke, R; Rojas, F; Yong, M. (2010). Technical report. IICE, University of Costa Rica. Sponsored by The Billfish Foundation.

Presentations (to non-academic audiences)

26. American Dairy Science Association. Invited Speaker (Chicago, IL).
25. NC Extension Annual Conference. January 2025 (Greensboro, NC).
24. Michigan State University. November 2024 (East Lansing, MI).
23. Connect2Grow. October 2024 (Raleigh, NC).
22. USDA Farm Labor Conference. September 2024 (Santa Cruz, CA).
21. Examination of Agricultural Labor Policy Options. Organized Symposium. Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting. July 2024 (New Orleans, LA).
20. Hospitality and Immigration. Institute for Humane Studies. June 2024 (Charlotte, NC).
19. Green Industry Symposium. Invited Speaker. The Green Industry Council. July 2024 (Raleigh, NC).
18. Catalyze NC: Unlocking Tomorrow's Workforce with Innovation and Immigration. Invited Speaker. Immigration Hub. June 2024 (Raleigh, NC).
17. Conversations on Migration: Agricultural Workers and U.S. Visas. Keynote Invited Speaker. Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. October 2023 (virtual)

16. Immigration Impacts on Healthcare. Institute for Humane Studies. September 2023 (Washington, DC).
15. University and Industry Consortium. Invited Speaker. October 2023 (Chicago, IL)
14. Virginia Cooperative Extension, Keynote Invited Speaker, Virginia Tech. June 2023 (virtual)
13. Pickle Packers International (PPI). Invited Speaker. April 2023 (Raleigh, NC).
12. NC Christmas Tree Association. Winter Meeting. February 2023 (Boone, NC).
11. NC Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers. Invited Speaker. February 2023 (Raleigh, NC).
10. NC Extension Annual Conference. October 2022 (Greensboro, NC).
9. Virginia Cooperative Extension, Keynote Invited Speaker, Virginia Tech. July 2022 (virtual)
8. Green Industry Research Consortium (co-organizer). Multi-state Hatch. Fall meeting. September 2022 (Raleigh, NC).
7. NC Christmas Tree Association. Winter Meeting. February 2022 (Boone, NC).
6. Agricultural Labor in NC, Extension Annual Conference. October 2021 (virtual)
5. Carbon Markets, Conservation Practices, and Ag. Labor (with R. Rejesus and E. Edwards), Extension Annual Conference. October 2021 (virtual)
4. Invited Speaker. Agricultural Labor Outlook. Southern Outlook Conference. September 2021 (Atlanta, GA).
3. Green Industry Research Consortium. Multi-state Hatch. Fall meeting. September 2021 (virtual)
2. Green Industry Research Consortium. Multi-state Hatch. Winter meeting. March 2021 (virtual)
1. Agricultural Labor Outlook, Extension Agent Educational Series, ARE/NCSU. November 2020 (virtual)

## **TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE**

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### **WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

#### *Instructor*

Political Economy, Summer 2017, Summer 2016

#### *Teaching Assistant*

Fall 2015-Spring 2018

#### *Professional Development in Teaching:*

Preparation in Pedagogy Program, certificate awarded in September of 2019

### **UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA**

#### *Teaching Assistant*



Multiple courses in the Economics and Mathematics departments, 2005-2011

## **OTHER**

Mentor and research supervisor of many students at all levels (undergraduate, master's, and doctoral). NC State University. 2020-

Guest speaker. ARE 303. Farm Management. Spring 2023. NC State University.

Keynote Speaker. *Do's and Don'ts of Life in College*. Mexican Studies Institute. City University of New York. Webinar, January 31, 2022.

Panelist. *Networking and Interacting with the Media*. American Economic Association. Summer Mentoring Pipeline Conference, June 17, 2022 (Washington, DC).

## **PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICE**

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### *Referee*

Journal of Population Economics (x3), World Development, Small Business Economics, American Journal of Agricultural Economics (x3), Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy, Agricultural Economics, Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Choices, Journal of Extension, USDA-ERS Economic Information Bulletin, Agribusiness: An International Journal (x2), Revista de Ciencias Económicas

### *Reviewer*

BARD Fund, AAEA Annual Conference (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024) abstract reviewer, WashU Economics Graduate Student Conference, CORESTA Guide 17 Sustainability in Leaf Tobacco Production

### *Memberships*

American Economic Association, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, Midwest Economics Association, Western Economic Association International, Southern Economic Association, Southern Agricultural Economics Association, American Society of Hispanic Economists

### *Committee Service*

Distinguished Outreach/Extension Award, AAEA, 2023-  
Hispanic Economic Outlook, American Society of Hispanic Economists, 2022-  
Farmworker Pesticide Education Program, NCSU, September 2020-  
Secretary, Treasurer, and Chair (elected), Latin American Section, AAEA, 2024-  
CALs faculty cluster hire on Artificial Intelligence (appointed by the Dean), 2024-25  
Co-organizer, Brownbag Seminar for Applied Microeconomics (BAM), 2021-2022  
Search committee for a farm management extension position, ARE, 2021  
ARE representative, NC State Employees Combined Campaign, 2021-2025

## **SKILLS**

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*Computer:* Stata, MATLAB, R, Python, LaTeX, EViews

*Languages:* English (fluent), Spanish (native); Mandarin, Cantonese, French, and German (basic)