

Catherine Mata Hidalgo

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Catherine Mata Hidalgo is an economist with a degree from the University of Costa Rica. After obtaining her bachelor's degree in economics, she conducted post-graduate studies for two more years to obtain a *Licenciatura* Degree –with honors- in economics. As part of her thesis, she designed and performed an impact evaluation of the Costa Rican conditional cash transfer program “Avancemos”, using Costa Rican household surveys and applying quasi-experimental econometric methodologies. She is also a researcher at the Inequality, Poverty, Gender and Labor Market Department of the Economic Research Institute at the University of Costa Rica. In this position, she has been working and serving as advisor to government authorities on how to evaluate the selective social programs of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security. Originally born in Costa Rica, she is fluent in both Spanish and English (second language).

Educational Background

- *Licenciatura* Degree in Economics, University of Costa Rica, Honors, 2014.
Thesis, “Conditional Cash Transfers Impact Evaluation: Avancemos”. In order to evaluate the conditional cash transfers for secondary education in Costa Rica (Avancemos), quasi-experimental econometric methodologies are applied using Costa Rican household surveys.
- Bachelor Degree in Economics, University of Costa Rica, 2011

Areas of Interest

Public Policy, Education, Poverty, Impact Evaluation of Social Programs and Labor Market.

Work Experience

January 2013-present. Researcher for the Economic Research Institute at the University of Costa Rica

- Current projects:
 - Evaluation System of the Social Selective Programs Financed by FODESAF (National Development Fund)
 - Impact Evaluation of the Development Bank System
 - Gendered Distribution of Time Use in Costa Rica from 2011–2013 using the National Households Survey (ENAHO)

2014-present. Consultant

- Research consultant for the Inter-American Development Bank on gender, taxation, education, social policy and labor market.
- Research consultant for the *Programa Estado de la Nación* (State of Nation) Costa Rica, on equity and social development.
- Research consultant for the *Estado de la Educación* (State of Education Program), Costa Rica.

January 2014-April 2014. Intern in the Human Development, Education and Employment Department at the Organization of American States (OAS).

August 2011-December 2012: Research Assistant for the Economic Research Institute at the University of Costa Rica

September 2012-December 2012: Research consultant on Information and Knowledge Society Program at the University of Costa Rica.

- Project “Strategy of closing the digital gap in the northern Costa Rica area”

November 2011-September 2012: Economic Analyst at Capitaless.com

Publications

Mata, C. 2015. “Potential and real effect on poverty of the Social Development National Fund” Document prepared for the XXI State of Nation report. State of Nation Program, San José, Costa Rica. Available only in Spanish at http://estadonacion.or.cr/files/biblioteca_virtual/021/social/Mata_K_2015.pdf

Mata, C. 2015. "Analysis of cost of living and production in Costa Rica" Document prepared for the XXI State of Nation report. State of Nation Program. San José, Costa Rica. Available only in Spanish at http://estadonacion.or.cr/files/biblioteca_virtual/021/economia/MataPreciosC3.pdf

Mata, C; Hernández, K. 2015. “Conditional Cash Transfer Impact Evaluation: An evaluation of the Costa Rican Secondary Education Program Avancemos”. Economics Sciences Journal. University of Costa Rica. San José, Costa Rica. Available only in Spanish at <http://revistas.ucr.ac.cr/index.php/economicas/article/view/19964/20196>

Trejos, J; Mata, C; Oviedo; L. 2015. “Distributional Incidence of Fiscal Policy” National Income and Expenditures Household Survey 2013. National Institute of Statistics and Census. San José, Costa Rica. Available only in Spanish at <http://www.inec.go.cr/A/MS/Encuestas/Encuesta%20Ingresos%20y%20Gastos%202013/Simposio%20de%20Ingresos%20y%20Gastos/Publicaciones/Investigaciones%20del%20Simposio%20Nacional%20de%20Ingresos%20y%20Gastos%20del%20a%C3%B1o%202013.pdf>

Mata, C. 2014. “School performance database state for the district 07 of Desamparados, 2013” Document prepared for the fifth State of Education report. State of Nation Program. San José, Costa Rica. Available only in Spanish at http://estadonacion.or.cr/files/biblioteca_virtual/educacion/005/Catherine_Mata_Base_de_datos_PIAE.pdf

Trejos, J; Mata, C; Oviedo, L. 2014. “Gender Equity in Taxation in Latin America and the Caribbean Project: the case of Costa Rica”. Document prepared for the Inter-American Development Bank. Washington, DC. Available only in English

Research in Progress

Hillesland, M; Roncolato, L; Mata, C. “Gendered Distribution of Time Use in Costa Rica from 2011–2013 using the National Households Survey (ENAHOS)”. Economics Research Institute, University of Costa Rica. San José, Costa Rica.

Mata, C; Hernández, K. “Costa Rican Conditional Cash Transfers Impact Evaluation, Avancemos 2008-2009”. San José, Costa Rica

Mata, C; Sánchez, C. “Does scholarship program for primary education has any impact in Costa Rica?” San José, Costa Rica.

Academic Experience

2013: Teaching Assistant for Public Economics, Department of Economics, University of Costa Rica.

Skills

Languages:

- Spanish: Native language
- English: Advanced proficiency level certificate by the University of Costa Rica.

Computer skills:

Stata, Eviews, SPSS, Excel, Power Point and Word.