

Santiago Pérez

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Employment

- University of California, Davis — Associate Professor of Economics, 2023–present
- University of California, Davis — Assistant Professor of Economics, 2017–2023

Professional Affiliations

- National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) — Research Associate, 2023–present
- National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) — Faculty Research Fellow, 2019–2023
- Global Migration Center, UC Davis — Associate Faculty, 2017–present

Previous Affiliations

- National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) — Postdoctoral Fellow on “The Economics of Mobility,” 2020–2021
- Brown University — Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, 2021–2022

Education

- Stanford University — Ph.D. in Economics, 2011–2017
- Universidad de San Andrés — Master in Economics, 2008–2009
- Universidad de Buenos Aires — Licenciatura in Economics, 2003–2008

Publications

- Law-Abiding Immigrants: The Incarceration Gap Between Immigrants and the US-born, 1870–2020 (with Ran Abramitzky, Leah Boustan, Elisa Jacome, and Juan David Torres). *AER: Insights*, 2024. Lead article.
- Civil Service Exams and Organizational Performance: Evidence from the Pendleton Act (with Diana Moreira). *AEJ: Applied Economics*, 2024.
- Southern (American) Hospitality: Italians in Argentina and the US during the Age of Mass Migration. *Economic Journal*, 2021.
- The Long-Term Spillover Effects of Changes in the Return to Schooling (with Ran Abramitzky and Victor Lavy). *Journal of Public Economics*, 2021.
- Intergenerational Mobility of Immigrants in the U.S. over the Last Two Centuries (with Ran Abramitzky, Leah Boustan, and Elisa Jácome). *American Economic Review*, 2021.
- Automated Linking of Historical Data (with Ran Abramitzky, Leah Boustan, Katherine Eriksson, and James Feigenbaum). *Journal of Economic Literature*, 2021.

- Intergenerational Occupational Mobility Across Three Continents. *The Journal of Economic History*, 2019.
- Linking Individuals Across Historical Sources: A Fully Automated Approach (with Ran Abramitzky and Roy Mill). *Historical Methods: A Journal of Quantitative and Interdisciplinary History*, 2019.
- The (South) American Dream: Mobility and Economic Outcomes of First- and Second-Generation Immigrants in 19th-Century Argentina. *The Journal of Economic History*, 2017. Lead article. Best Article by a Researcher under 35 (National Academy of Economic Sciences of Argentina).

Working Papers

- Intergenerational Mobility of Immigrants in 15 Destination Countries (planning team: Leah Boustan, Mathias Fjællegaard Jensen, Ran Abramitzky, Elisa Jácome, Alan Manning, Santiago Pérez, Analysis Watley). Revise and resubmit at *American Economic Review*.
- The G.I. Bill, Standardized Testing, and the Socioeconomic Origins of the US Educational Elite (with Ran Abramitzky, Jennifer Kowalski, and Joseph Price). Revise and resubmit at *Review of Economic Studies*.
- Climbing the Ivory Tower: How Socio-Economic Background Shapes Academia (with Ran Abramitzky, Lena Greska, Joseph Price, Carlo Schwarz, and Fabian Waldinger).
- Daughters as Safety Net? Family Responses to Parental Employment Shocks: Evidence from Alcohol Prohibition (with Anna Aizer and Gabrielle Grafton).
- Finding John Smith: Using Extra Information for Historical Record Linkage (with Ran Abramitzky, Harriet Brookes Gray, Leah Boustan, Katherine Eriksson, and Myera Rashid).
- Who Benefits from Meritocracy? (with Diana Moreira).
- Railroads and the Rural to Urban Transition: Evidence from 19th-Century Argentina.

Selected Work in Progress

- College Dynasties (with Ran Abramitzky, Jennifer Kowalski, and Joseph Price).

Book Chapters

- Migration and Immigrant Outcomes at the Destination, in *Research Handbook of Historical Sociology*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Argentina in the Age of Mass Migration, in *Roots of Underdevelopment: A New Economic (and Political) History of Latin America and the Caribbean*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2022 (with Federico Droller and Martín Fiszbein).

Book Reviews

- “Snakes and Ladders: The Great British Social Mobility Myth,” by Selina Todd. *Economic History Review*, 2021.

- “Migrant Marketplaces: Food and Italians in North and South America,” by Elizabeth Zanoni. *Business History Review*, 2019, 93(3): 645–647.

Research Grants

- National Science Foundation (\$500,000), with Ran Abramitzky and Joe Price, 2022.
- Russell Sage Foundation (\$166,553), with Ran Abramitzky and Joe Price, 2022.
- UC Davis, Small Grant in Aid of Research, 2018–2020 and 2023–2024.
- Economic History Association, Arthur H. Cole Grant in Aid, 2018.

Fellowships and Awards

- Economic History Association Engerman-Goldin Prize (with Abramitzky, Boustan, Eriksson, and Rashid for the Census Linking Project), 2024.
- UC Davis Department of Economics, Thomas Meyer Distinguished Teaching Award, 2023.
- UC Davis Hellman Fellowship (with Diana Moreira), 2021.
- *Journal of Economic Geography*, Best Referee Award, 2020.
- NBER Postdoctoral Fellowship on the Economics of Mobility, 2020.
- National Academy of Economic Sciences of Argentina, Best Article by a Researcher under the Age of 35, 2019.
- *Explorations in Economic History*, Excellence in Refereeing Award, 2019.
- Leonard W. Ely and Shirley R. Ely Graduate Student Fund Fellowship, 2016–2017.
- Economic History Association Dissertation Fellowship, 2016.
- Stanford University Outstanding TA Award, Fall 2015.
- SCID Exploratory Award, 2015.
- Economic History Association Exploratory Data and Travel Grant, 2015.
- Stanford University Economics Department Research Grant, 2014.
- Stanford University Graduate Fellowship, 2011/12–2012/13.
- Universidad de San Andrés Master Program Scholarship, 2009.

Invited Seminars and Conference Presentations

- **2026:** Society of Labor Economists (including scheduled).
- **2025:** UC Davis Department of Economics Undergraduate Seminar; UC Davis Law School; NBER Conference on Linking Historical Data Sources for Small Populations*; UNAM; NBER Summer Institute*; International Monetary Fund.
- **2024:** Universidad de San Andrés; Central Washington University Economic Outlook Conference (keynote speaker); Dondena-Cornell DOCG gathering; Linnaeus University; NBER Summer Institute*; UC Berkeley; San Diego State University; Santa Clara University; Wake Forest University.
- **2023:** Chicago Federal Reserve; NBER Immigrants and the US Economy Conference; UCMX Seminar on the Economics of Immigration; Universidad de Buenos Aires; Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF); University of Texas, El Paso; University of Arizona; Syracuse University; Universidad de San Andrés Alumni Conference.

- **2022:** Harvard University; World Economic History Congress; Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics; University of British Columbia; Peking University; Universidad de San Andrés Alumni Conference.
- **2021:** Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF); University of Melbourne; University of British Columbia; Yale University Economic History Conference; Universidad Nacional de La Plata; Annual Cliometrics Conference; Economic History Association; BREAD Conference*; NBER Summer Institute (x2); Warwick University; Brown University; Northwestern University; Yale University; Rutgers University; PUC Chile; Wilfrid Laurier University; NBER Economics of Mobility; Social Science History Association.

Invited Discussions

- 2025: ASSA meetings (session chair plus three discussions); YSI-EHES Economic History.
- 2024: LACEA Migration Network Meeting; Economic History Association meetings (session chair).
- 2022: Economic History Association meetings (session chair).
- 2021: CAF Workshop on Intergenerational Mobility in Latin America; Explorations in Economic History Conference on Methodological Advances in the Extraction and Analysis of Historical Data; YSI-EHES Economic History.
- 2020: NBER Economics of Mobility Meeting.
- 2017: Economic History Association meetings.

Conference Organization and Scientific Committees

- 2026: LACEA Migration Network Meeting.
- 2026: Society of Labor Economists Program Committee.
- 2025: LACEA LAMES Annual Meeting.
- 2024: Economic History Association Local Arrangements Committee.
- 2024: LACEA Migration Network Meeting.
- 2023: LACEA LAMES Annual Meeting.
- 2022: Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics (Migration Session).

Department Service

- News committee, 2022–present.
- Co-organizer, Economic History Seminar.

Campus Service

- U21 Global Leadership Program.
- Review Committee, Alianza UC-MX Collaborative Research Proposals.

Teaching

- UC Davis — Economics of International Migrations (undergraduate), since Fall 2017–present.
- UC Davis — US Economic History (undergraduate), since Winter 2023–present.
- UC Davis — Economic History (graduate), since Winter 2018–present.
- Brown University — Inequality and Social Policies (graduate), Fall 2021.

Short Courses and Invited Lectures

- Global Migration Center and Alianza UCMX Summer School on the Economics of Immigration, 2022–2025.
- Bogotá Summer School of Economics, 2024.
- Feria del Libro de Buenos Aires (invited by FamilySearch), “New Technologies to Know Better our History,” 2023.
- UCSD Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, “A New Frontier in Immigration Research: Historical Record Linkage,” 2022.

Refereeing

AEJ: Applied Economics; AEJ: Economic Policy; American Economic Review; American Economic Review: Insights; American Sociological Review; Applied Economics; Chile’s National Research and Development Agency; Demographic Research; Econometrica; Economica; Economic History of Developing Regions; Economic History Review; Economic Journal; European Review of Economic History; Explorations in Economic History; Israel Science Foundation; International Migration Review; Journal of Development Economics; Journal of Economic Geography; Journal of Economic History; Journal of American Ethnic History; Journal of Human Resources; Journal of Labor Economics; Journal of Urban Economics; Journal of the European Economic Association; Journal of Political Economy; Journal of Public Economics; Quarterly Journal of Economics; Regional Science and Urban Economics; Revista de Historia Económica; Review of Economics and Statistics; Review of World Economics; Russell Sage Foundation; Scandinavian Review of Economic History; Canada Foundation for Innovation; Social Sciences.

Personal Information

Argentine citizen; U.S. permanent resident; U.S. Census Special Sworn Status.

Last updated: December 23, 2025