

EDUARDO CENCI

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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics

May, 2021 (*expected*)

Dissertation: “Essays on Internal Migration and Labor Productivity”

Primary fields: Development Economics and Labor Economics

Certificate in Teaching and Learning, Delta Program

Mar, 2021 (*expected*)

Fundação Getúlio Vargas (EESP/FGV)

M.A. in Economics

Apr, 2015

Universidade de Brasília (UnB)

B.A. in Accounting

Mar, 2006

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS

Job Market Paper

Internal migration and the spread of long-term impacts of historical immigration in Brazil. (w/ Daniel Lopes and Leonardo Monasterio), Available at: webfileshare.aae.wisc.edu/ecenci/descendantsCLM.pdf

Abstract: Immigration shocks in the 1850–1960 period left long-lasting positive impacts in southern Brazil. Yet, little is known about how these benefits spread over the country in the following decades. We use a surname-based classification of ancestries to identify descendants of immigrants and investigate the spreading of gains from historical immigration in Brazil. We find that the concentration of descendants of historical immigrants in municipalities in northern and central Brazil is positively associated with several indicators of economic development today, in particular with higher wages. Leveraging individual-level information from linked employer-employee data in which we observe both the individual’s wage and ancestry, we find a wage premium of approximately 12% for descendants and positive spillovers between ancestry groups. One additional percentage point in the concentration of descendants in a municipality corresponds to a wage increase of 1% to descendants and 2% for non-descendants. Our results agree with a model where descendants and non-descendants have complementary skills in the production function of the firms, particularly those in the agricultural sector.

Work in Progress

Selection and heterogeneity in the returns to migration. (w/ Marieke Kleemans and Emilia Tjernström)

Abstract: There is considerable debate on the returns to rural-urban migration in developing countries and magnitudes differ sharply depending on the method used. We aim to reconcile these divergent estimates by explicitly accounting for the role of heterogeneity in the returns to migration. We begin by using machine learning methods to examine key features of the distribution of conditional average returns. We exploit rich panel data from over 58,000 individuals in Indonesia whom we observe over a 28-year time period. The estimates from this exercise inform a multi-period Roy model, which allows for worker heterogeneity in both absolute and comparative advantage. We then explore several econometric models that allow us to estimate returns under both types of heterogeneity. The first of these is an instrumental variable approach to estimate marginal treatment effects using weather shocks interacted with historical migration patterns. The second is a correlated random coefficient model that gets identification from a parametric assumption on the relationship between comparative advantage and absolute advantage. This model lets us extrapolate the returns identified from switcher sub-populations to stayers—a group of particular interest to policymakers deciding whether to encourage migration as a development strategy. We then draw on recent developments in the literature on non-parametric panel data identification and employ a group random coefficient model that allows us to explicitly test the parametric assumptions that identify the returns to non-movers.

The wage premium of migrants and returned migrants: Evidence from internal migration in Brazil.

Abstract: I investigate the components and the recent evolution of the wage premium observed for current and returned internal migrants in Brazil. I find that the wages of internal migrants are, on average, about 10% higher than the wages of non-migrants. For returned migrants, wages are 4% higher on average. I explore different regression specifications, subsamples, and an instrumental variables strategy based on past migration rates to investigate the role of self-selection, place-specific effects, and learning on these wage premia. I then look at the evolution of migrants' wage premia since 2000 and find a non-monotonic relationship between wage premium and migration spell, which I interpret as evidence in favor of learning and adaptation. Finally, I find that the wage premium for returned migrants grows in the period analyzed in this paper. I discuss the link between this growth and recent changes in regional inequality in Brazil.

Book Chapter

Agribusiness and rural credit. (2014) in: Clovis de Faro (Org.). Bank administration: An applied approach. Rio de Janeiro: FGV Editora. (w/ Angelo Gurgel and Felipe Serigati)

Instructional Material

PRiME Impact Evaluation Course. (w/ Amanda Arabage), Available at: www.primetraining.global

WORK EXPERIENCE (ACADEMIA & POLICY)

Research Assistant to Prof. Emilia Tjernström, University of Wisconsin-Madison *Summer, 2019*
Research Assistant to Dr. Pedro Olinto and Dr. Hanan Jacoby, World Bank Group *Summer, 2015*
Researcher at the Center for Applied Microeconomics, Fundação Getúlio Vargas (EESP) *Fall, 2014*

WORK EXPERIENCE (FARMING & BUSINESS)

Business Partner, Hartos Agronegócios (grain production, cattle ranching, and pig farming) *2013–2017*
Financial Manager, Hartos Agronegócios *2008–2012*
Business Partner, Safra Planejamentos (agribusiness consultancy) *2003–2012*
Managing Assistant, Agropecuária Cenci (family farming business) *2002–2008*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Lecturer, AAE 215: Introduction to Agricultural & Applied Economics [eval. 4.2/5] *Spring, 2020*
TA, PA 880: Microeconomic Policy Analysis, Prof. Lindsay Jacobs [eval. 4.6/5] *Fall, 2019*
TA, AAE 215: Intro. to Agr. & Applied Economics, Dr. Fengxia Dong [eval. 4.8/5] *Spring, 2018*
TA, AAE 215: Intro. to Agr. & Applied Economics, Prof. Tessa Conroy [eval. 4.6/5] *Fall, 2017*
TA, AAE 637: Applied Econometric Analysis II, Prof. Brian Gould [eval. 4.7/5] *Spring, 2017*
TA, AAE 215: Intro. to Agr. & Applied Economics, Dr. Fengxia Dong [eval. 4.3/5] *Spring, 2017*
TA, AAE 215: Intro. to Agr. & Applied Economics, Prof. Tessa Conroy [eval. 4.6/5] *Fall, 2016*

Fundação Getúlio Vargas (EESP/FGV)

TA, Applied Microeconometrics, Profs. Sergio Firpo and Andre Souza [not evaluated] *Fall, 2014*

Policy and Professional Teaching

Trainer, PRiME Impact Evaluation Course (in Portuguese, online) *Feb, 2021 (scheduled)*
Trainer, PRiME Impact Evaluation Course (in English, in person) *May, 2019*

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

2020 NEUDC (online), 2020 AAEA Annual Meeting (online, Teaching and Learning Section), 2020 Graduate Student Workshop of the WEAI (online), 2020 H2D2 Research Day (online), 2019 LACEA Annual Meeting (Puebla, Mexico), 2019 AAEA Annual Meeting (Atlanta, GA), 2018 IDEAS Summer School in Development Economics (Prato, Italy), 2018 IPEA Seminar Series (Brasília, Brazil)

AWARDS, MEMBERSHIPS, AND SERVICE

Awards

Bromley Dissertation Paper Prize, AAE Dept., UW-Madison	2020
Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, AAE Dept., UW-Madison	2018
Student Research Grant Competition Award, UW-Madison (2×)	2018, 2019
Conference Travel Grant, AAE Dept., UW-Madison (2×)	2018, 2019
University Fellowship, UW-Madison (2×)	2015–2016, 2018–2019

Membership and Affiliations

Graduate Research Fellow, UW-Madison Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP)	2020–present
Member, COOPA-DF (Farming Cooperative in Brasília, Brazil)	2020–present
Future Faculty Partner, UW-Madison Teaching Academy	2019–present
Membership in professional associations: AEA, AAEA, EEA, and LACEA	

Service

Student Representative, Seminar Coordinator, and Social Chair, AAE Dept., UW-Madison	2016–2020
Volunteer Tutor, Odyssey Project, UW-Madison	2019–2020
Volunteer Tutor, Center for Educational Opportunity, UW-Madison	2018
Volunteer Tutor, Centro Hispano of Dane County, WI	2017–2018
Volunteer and Sponsor, Junior Achievement DF, Brasília, Brazil	2008–present

LANGUAGES AND COMPUTER SKILLS

Languages: English (fluent), Portuguese (native), Spanish (intermediate), Italian (basic)

Computer Skills: R, Stata, Matlab, LaTeX, MS Access, QGIS (basic)

REFERENCES

Prof. Laura Schechter (Advisor)

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Prof. Bradford Barham

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Prof. Emilia Tjernström

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