

LAURA VILLEGAS

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PROFILE	<p>Citizenship: Colombian</p> <p>Residency: U.S. since August, 2013</p> <p>Languages: Advanced English and Spanish</p> <p>Tools: R, MATLAB, Stata, SAS—In order of recent usage</p> <p>Proficiency: Microsoft Office, Mathematics, Statistics</p> <p>Special: Experience of team work in competitive settings</p>																		
EDUCATION	<table> <tr> <td>PhD Student Agricultural and Resource Economics</td> <td>Aug 2013 - Present</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North Carolina State University</td> <td>Anticipated CGPA 3.68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Raleigh, NC. United States</td> <td>Graduation— 2017</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M.S. Applied Economics</td> <td>2011 - 2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Montana State University—Bozeman, MT. United States</td> <td>CGPA 3.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B.S. Economics (Highest Honors)</td> <td>2007-2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Montana State University—Bozeman, MT. United States</td> <td>CGPA 3.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B.A. Political Sciences-International Relations</td> <td>2007-2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Montana State University—Bozeman, MT. United States</td> <td>CGPA 3.75</td> </tr> </table>	PhD Student Agricultural and Resource Economics	Aug 2013 - Present	North Carolina State University	Anticipated CGPA 3.68	Raleigh, NC. United States	Graduation— 2017	M.S. Applied Economics	2011 - 2013	Montana State University—Bozeman, MT. United States	CGPA 3.4	B.S. Economics (Highest Honors)	2007-2011	Montana State University—Bozeman, MT. United States	CGPA 3.75	B.A. Political Sciences-International Relations	2007-2011	Montana State University—Bozeman, MT. United States	CGPA 3.75
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OTHER CERTIFICATIONS	<p>Successful Completion of the U.S. Department of Interior 36-hours course “Introduction to Structured Decision Making” Aug 2014</p> <p><i>National Conservation Training Center—Shepherdstown, WV. United States</i></p>																		
EXPERIENCE	<p>Research Assistant—NCSU, Southeast Climate Science Center</p> <p><i>North Carolina State University. US Department of Interior.</i> Sep 2015-Present</p> <p>Description: Coastal ecosystems in the eastern U.S. have been severely altered by processes associated with human development, sea-level rise and the increased frequency of extreme events related to climate change. The work with the South East Climate Science Center seeks to assist coastal refuges in planning for and adapting to sea-level rise and other global change processes. This collaboration integrates the expertise of specialists in global-change science, coastal and landscape dynamics, environmental and natural resource economics, and decision science to address management policies that will benefit both human and wildlife interests into the future.</p> <p>Intern—State of North Carolina, Coal Ash Management Commission Summer 2015</p> <p><i>State of north Carolina, Coal Ash Management Commission.</i></p> <p>Under the mentorship of Dr. Roger von, we are assisting the Coal Ash Management Commission of the State of North Carolina in the development of a report regarding environmentally beneficial ways of disposing coal ash from carbon-based power plants in the state of North Carolina.</p>																		

EXPERIENCE

Desk Consultant— CGIAR, Standing Panel on Impact Assessment Summer 2015
Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research, Standing Panel on Impact Assessment

Under the direction of Dr. Mitchell Renkow, we are assisting SPIA in further developing and playing a lead role in helping populate a database of credible claims about significant policy-oriented research outcomes from CGIAR research.

Research Assistant—NCSU, US Geological Survey Aug 2014 – Sep 2015
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, North Carolina State University. US Geological Survey (USGS), US Department of Interior.

Working under the direction of Dr. Paul Fackler in a project of the US Geological Survey, we are developing a decision framework to find optimal rules for dam operation under environmental regulations and relicensing conditions protecting the American Eel in the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers.

Grader—NCSU Jan 2015 - Present
Department of Agricultural Economics. North Carolina State University.

Courses: “Introduction to Agricultural and Resource Economics”; “Agricultural and Environmental Policy”; “Agribusiness Management”

Teaching Assistant—NCSU Aug 2013 - Dec 2014
Department of Economics. North Carolina State University.

Courses: “Principles of Microeconomics”

Analyst of Economic and Environmental Impact—HVM Inc. Summer 2013
HVM Ingenieros. Bogotá, Colombia

Description: Conducting studies of economic valuation of environmental impacts caused by the development of hydroelectric power projects involving the construction and operation of hydropower centrals in Colombia

Research and Teaching Assistant—MSU Aug 2011 - May 2013
 Description: search and analyze agricultural data (US and international)

Courses: “Principles of Microeconomics”

Research Assistant—MSU Summer 2012
Montana State University (Department of Biology and Plant Pathology), and Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI).

Description: Under the supervision of Dr. David Sands, a plant pathologist at Montana State University, worked in a pilot project of technology adoption in rural Kenya. The project seeks to introduce into the Kenyan market of agricultural inputs a variety of bio-control developed by Dr. Sands and his team of American and Kenyan plant pathologists. Using the engineered bio-control agent would allow African farmers to manage efficiently and at low cost various strains of the weed Striga which currently attacks sorghum and maize in 18 African countries.

Intern—Foundation for Research in Economics and the Environment Summer 2011

Foundation for Research in Economics and the Environment. Bozeman, MT.

Description: Event planning; coordination and execution of educational events, conferences and seminars regarding topics of economics, environment management, public health, energy policy, and urban development.

Tutor—MSU Jan 2011 – Dec 2011
Athletics Department. Montana state University.

Teaching Assistant—MSU Fall 2008
College of Letters and Sciences. Montana State University.

HONORS AND
AWARDS

Southeast Climate Science Center Global Change Fellow— <i>North Carolina State University. US Department of Interior.</i>	2015 - 2016
Goetz Award—MSU <i>Department of Political Science. Montana State University.</i> Description: for Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement.	2010-2011
Heydar Aliyev Award for Academic Excellence Impacting on Azerbaijan—Azerbaijani General Consulate <i>Azerbaijani General Consulate to California and the 13 Western American States</i> Description: For her independent studies on the Black Sea Region project on mineral resources and economic development in emerging economies.	May 2011
President’s List (4.0 GPA)—MSU	May 2011
Dean’s List (GPA above 3.5) —MSU	2007-2011
International-Students Honors’ List –MSU	2009 & 2011
Best Delegate Award— The Model Arab League <i>University of Montana. Missoula, MT. United States</i> Regional Collegiate Debate Competitions Committee of Environmental Affairs, Representing Algeria	Apr, 2010
Most Valuable Player—Tennis Team <i>Athletics Department. Montana State University—Bozeman, MT. United States</i>	2006-2007 & 2009-2010
Honorary Tennis Players <i>First-team (2007-2008) and Second-team (2006-2007) of the Big Sky Conference</i>	2006-2007 & 2007-2008

PUBLISHED
WORKS

In: Visions of Azerbaijan. Nov-Dec, 2010 Issue. “A meeting With Professor Alexander Rondeli at the GFSIS”.	
In: “The New Silk Road: Education Adventures in Energy and Environment.” First Edition, by Thomas Goltz and Students. The European Azerbaijan Society. 2011. Articles: “Reflections on a Journey Now Past”; “Reflections on Martyrs’ Lane”; “Qabala and a Visit to the Jala Juice Factory”; “Crossing the Border”; “The Party Bus”; “Dear Professor”	
In: The Foundation for Research on Economics and the Environment Online Publications. August, 2011. Commentaries: “Technology and Rent Seeking Behavior: a Modern and Local Case of Problems with the Management of Common Pool Resources”; “Urban Development and the Demand for Water in the Contemporary West: A Local Case of Thirsty Cities”	
In: The Big Sky Political Analysis Blog (Political Science Department of Montana State University). May, 2011. Commentary: “Day by Day, Rock by Rock: Transforming Mineral Wealth into Economic Development”	
Working Paper: Master’s Thesis with Vincent Smith, Joe Atwood and Eric Belasco: “Does Participation in Public Works Encourage Fertilizer Use in Rural Ethiopia?” Apr 2013.	

PRESENTATIONS	Graduate Student Symposium—NCSU	Mar 2014
	“Does Participation in Public Works encourage fertilizer use in rural Ethiopia?”	
	Latin American Research Symposium—NCSU	Oct 2013
	“Safety Net Programs and Household Investment Choices in Rural Ethiopia”	
	Undergraduate Poster Fair—MSU	Apr 2011
	“Avoiding the Resource Curse: Transforming Mineral Wealth into Economic Development, The case of Coltan in Colombia”	
	Sack Lunch Seminar Series on Women Success—MSU	Apr 2011
	“Celebrating the International Women Day: Women in Colombia”	
OTHER EXPERIENCE AND EXTRA- CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	Student Organizations:	
	Multicultural Leadership Collaborative—NCSU	Aug 2014 – Present
	Treasurer of the Latin American Student Association—NCSU	May 2014 –Present
	Taekwondo Club—MSU	Fall 2012
	Model Arab League Debate Group—MSU	2010-2011
	International Studies:	
	National Collegiate Debate Competitions	Apr 2011
	Model Arab League (Turkey, Committee of Economic Affairs) <i>Georgetown University—Washington D.C.</i>	
	Regional Collegiate Debate Competitions	2010 & 2011
	Model Arab League (Algeria, Environmental Affairs; Lebanon, Security Affairs) <i>University of Montana—Missoula, MT.</i>	
	Athletics and Recreation:	
	Division I College-Athlete (tennis team) – Big Sky Conference	2007 – 2011
	<i>Montana State University and Rocky-Mountain Region</i>	
	Assistant Coach to Amateur Tennis Players	Summer 2008
	<i>Bozeman, MT.</i>	& 2009
	Representative Colombian Athlete International Events	2004 – 2006
	<i>South America and U.S.</i>	
Certified Completion of First Tandem Skydive	Feb 2014	
<i>Triangle Skydiving Center, Raleigh, NC.</i>		
Certified Completion of the First Level of Pink Gloves Boxing Training	May 2011	
<i>Pink Gloves Boxing, Bozeman, MT.</i>		
Travel		
South-America, North America, South-East Asia and Eastern Europe.		
Volunteered		
Events in local schools, with the local food bank, and through the university in cleaning campaigns, money raising events, elderly care at hospitals and other charity activities		