

# Elisa Taveras | PhD candidate

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## Education

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### **Binghamton University**

*PhD, Economics*

**Binghamton, NY**

2017–2022 (*expected*)

### **Binghamton University**

*MA, Economics*

**Binghamton, NY**

2011–2013

### **Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC)**

*BSc, Economics*

Summa Cum Laude

**Dominican Republic**

2005–2008

### **Research and Teaching Interest:**

Labor Economics, Household Economics, Applied Microeconomics

### **Dissertation Committee:**

Solomon W. Polachek (chair), David Slichter, Alfonso Flores-Lagunes

## Research

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### **Working Papers**.....

*An Unintended Effect of School Entrance Age: Pushing Children Ahead through Private School* (Job Market Paper)

**abstract:** Does a child's birth date affect his or her probability of attending a private school? In the United States, most children must be five years old by September to start public kindergarten. An alternative option is to attend private schools, which are not obliged to comply with states' cutoffs. To explore this, I look at the effect of children's quarter of birth on their probability of attending private school by grade (pre-kindergarten through 12th grade). Using the American Community Survey, I find that children born in July–September and October–December are more likely to attend private kindergarten than children born between April and June. The effect does not persist at higher grades. These findings indicate that, when limited by the entrance age cutoff, parents use private schools to bypass the restriction, giving their children a head start on schooling, and later transfer them to public school as they progress through K–12.

*The Effect of Spouses' Relative Education on Household Time Allocation* (Revised and Resubmitted at the Southern Economic Journal)

**abstract:** Does spouses' relative education explain their household's distribution of labor? This paper analyzes the effect of educational attainment on time allocated to housework and paid work. To address endogeneity concerns, I implement a novel identification strategy by exploiting changes in spouses' education relationship due to remarriage to identify its effects on their time allocation. I find that when an individual marries a spouse with higher relative education than their previous one, the individual's share of housework time increases while their share of paid work time decreases. I also find that the spouse's relative education reduces the probability of a stay-at-home spouse. The effects

are stronger when a husband marries a more educated wife than his previous one. These findings show that relative human capital plays a role in household labor distribution and motivates a more gender-neutral division of labor within households.

*The Skills of Rich and Poor Country Workers* (with David Slichter and Daniela Monge)

**abstract:** We use information on the occupation choices and earnings of immigrants to measure differences in specific skills between workers from rich and poor countries. We have several findings. First, the skills which rich country workers specialize in mirror the skills which high-income individuals specialize in. Second, rich country workers have the greatest advantage in skills related to the ability to generate ideas (like creativity and critical thinking) rather than scientific or technical knowledge. Third, the skills in which rich country workers have the greatest advantage align closely with the skills used in management occupations. Fourth, workers from rich countries are more varied in their skills (e.g., what one Canadian is good at is different from what another Canadian is). These findings do not appear to be accounted for by the non-randomness of immigration or mismeasurement of skills. Overall, our results suggest that rich country workers have skills particularly well-adapted to production processes involving the coordinated efforts of large groups of people.

*The Effect of Fertility on Women's Labor Supply: Heterogeneity by Gender Norms*

**abstract:** This paper asks whether the effect of fertility on women's labor supply depends on gender norms. To separate the role of gender norms from institutional features, I compare the labor supply response to having more than two children among women who all live in the United States but were born in different countries. I find that, while women from all countries reduce employment in response to having children, this effect is substantially larger for women who were born in less gender-egalitarian countries. In particular, women from countries with the least egalitarian gender norms have an employment response three times larger than the employment response of natives or immigrants from the most egalitarian countries. Hence, the negative effect of fertility on labor supply decreases with gender egalitarianism.

**Work in Progress**.....

*Heterogenous Return to Education Through The Marriage Market*

**Conferences and Seminars**.....

**2021:**

- Graduate Students in Economics of Education Zoom (GEEZ) Seminars
- Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) 46th Annual Conference
- Western Economic Association International (WEAI) 96th Annual Conference
- Southern Economic Association (SEA) 91st Annual Meeting

**2020:**

- H2D2 Research Day Conference (student-run interdisciplinary seminar series based in the Department of Economics at the University of Michigan)
- Annual Meeting of the Society of Economics of the Household (SEHO). Preliminar program: <https://www.unive.it/pag/38114> (paper accepted, conference canceled due to COVID-19)
- Southern Economic Association (SEA) 90th Annual Meeting
- Missouri Valley Economic Association (MVEA) 57th Annual Conference

## Experience

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### Teaching Experience.....

**Binghamton University, Economics Department**

**Binghamton, NY**  
2017–

*Instructor:*

- The Economics of Poverty and Discrimination, Summer 2019, Winter 2020, Summer 2020, Winter 2021
- Intermediate Microeconomics, Summer 2021
- The Economics of Developing Countries, Fall 2021

*Teaching Assistant:*

- Principle of Microeconomics, Fall 2017
- Macroeconomic Theory I (PhD Level), Fall 2018, Fall 2019
- Microeconomic Theory II (PhD Level), Spring 2019, Spring 2021

*Grader:*

- Economic Forecasting, Spring 2018
- International Trade, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021
- Macroeconomic Theory (MA Level), Spring 2020
- Math Analysis for Economist (MA Level), Fall 2020

### Private Sector Experience.....

**Banco Popular Dominicano**

*Marketing Analytics Manager*

**Dominican Republic**

2013– 2017

**Banco Popular Dominicano**

*Information Senior Analyst*

**Dominican Republic**

2009 – 2011

**Asociación Popular de Ahorros y Préstamos**

*Portfolio Risk Analyst*

**Dominican Republic**

2008 – 2009

## Fellowships and Awards

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- Binghamton University's Graduate Student Excellence Award in Teaching, 2020
- Graduate Student Assistantship, Binghamton Department of Economics, 2017–
- Fulbright Scholarship Program for postgraduate studies in the United States, 2011–2013
- The Graduate School Scholarship for postgraduate studies at Binghamton University, 2011–2013
- "Programa de INTEC con los estudiantes Sobresaliente" (PIES), scholarship for undergraduate studies at the Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC), 2005 – 2008

## Service

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**2018 – 2019:** President of the Economics Graduate Student Organization at Binghamton University

**2012 – 2013:** Senator of the Economics Graduate Student Organization at Binghamton University

## References

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### **Solomon W. Polachek**

Distinguished Professor  
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Binghamton University  
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000  
Email: polachek@binghamton.edu

### **David Slichter**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Economics  
Binghamton University  
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000  
Phone: 217-493-9538  
Email: slichter@binghamton.edu

### **Alfonso Flores-Lagunes**

Melvin A. Eggers Faculty Scholar and Professor of  
Economics  
Syracuse University  
426 Eggers Hall  
Syracuse, NY 13244  
Email: afloresl@maxwell.syr.edu

### **Ozlem Tonguc** (*teaching reference*)

Assistant Professor  
Department of Economics  
Binghamton University  
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Email: otonguc@binghamton.edu

*November 25, 2021.*