

Samuel Pienknagura

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Personal

Born on March 20, 1980
Ecuadorian citizen

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), 2011.
M.Sc. in Economics and Finance, Centro de Estudios Monetarios y Financieros (CEMFI), 2005.
B.Sc. in Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), 2003.

Employment

Economist and Senior Economist, World Bank, 2011-2019

-Six years as Economist and Senior economist at the Chief Economist Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. Participated in two regional flagship reports, one as task team leader. Responsibilities included, drafting chapters and the executive summary, and coordinating the production of the report. Co-authored five semiannual reports, which tracked recent macroeconomic developments in Latin America and the Caribbean.

-Two years as Senior Economist in the Macro and Trade Global Practice. In that capacity I oversaw the knowledge agenda for four countries and participated in the preparation of a Development Policy Loan (DPL). I was the country economist for Chile, the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua, which entailed working on the Macro outlook for those countries.

Economist and Senior Economist, International Monetary fund, 2019-present

-Three years at the Regional Studies Division in the Western Hemisphere Department. Co-authored five analytical chapters in the Regional Economic Outlook (two in the October 2019 REO, one in the October 2021 REO, and two in the October 2022 REO) and co-led three chapters (two in the October 2020 REO, including the conjunctural chapter, and one in the October 2022 REO). Participated in a one-off assignment for the Article IV cycle for Chile.

-Senior economist at the Structural and Climate Policies Division at Research Department. Currently studying the determinants of innovation in and deployment of green technologies.

Publications

Journal Articles

"The Macroeconomic Impact of Social Unrest," forthcoming, *B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics*, (joint with Metodij Hadzi-Vaskov and Luca A. Ricci).

"The Macroeconomic and Socio-Economic Effects of Structural Reforms in Latin America and the Caribbean," *Economia, the Journal of LACEA*, vol. 21(2): 115-155 (joint with Antonio David and Takuji Komatsuzaki).

"On the Effectiveness of Containment Measures in Controlling the Covid-19 Pandemic: The Role of Labour Market Characteristics and Governance," *Applied Economic Letters*, Volume 28 (19): 1641-1647 (joint with Antonio David).

"Latent Trade Diversification and its Relevance for Macroeconomic Stability," 2021, *World Bank Economic Review*, Vol. 35 (1): 58-91, February 2021, (joint with Daniel Lederman and Diego Rojas).

"Macprudential Policies from a Microprudential Angle: A Note," 2020, *Latin American Journal of Central Banking*, Volume 1, Issues 1-4, 2020, 100005, (joint with Tito Cordella).

"The Volatility of World Trade in the 21st Century: Whose Fault is it Anyway?," 2019, *The World Economy*, Wiley Blackwell, Vol. 42 (9): 2508-2545, September, (joint with Federico Bennett, Daniel Lederman, and Diego Rojas).

"Are All Trade Agreements Equal? The Role of Distance in Shaping the Effect of Economic Integration Agreements on Trade Flows," 2019, *Review of World Economics (Weltwirtschaftliches Archiv)*, Springer;Institut fur Weltwirtschaft (Kiel Institute for the World Economy), Vol. 155(2): 257-285, May, (joint with Rebecca Freeman).

Working Papers

"Central Bank Independence and Inflation in Latin America—Through the Lens of History," IMF Working Papers 2022/186, International Monetary Fund, (joint with Luis I. Jacome).

"The Return of Expansionary Austerity: Firms' Investment Response to Fiscal Adjustments in Emerging Markets," IMF Working Papers 2022/070, International Monetary Fund, (joint with Nicolas E. Magud).

"Tax Policy for Inclusive Growth in Latin America and the Caribbean," IMF Working Papers 2022/008, International Monetary Fund, (joint with Santiago Acosta-Ormaechea and Carlo Pizzinelli).

"Assessing Chile's Pension System: Challenges and Reform Options," IMF Working Papers 2021/232, International Monetary Fund, (joint with Christopher Evans).

"The Macroeconomic Impact of Social Unrest," IMF Working Papers 2021/135, International Monetary Fund, (joint with Metodij Hadzi-Vaskov and Luca Antonio Ricci).

"Labor Market Dynamics, Informality and Regulations in Latin America," IMF Working Papers 2020/019, International Monetary Fund, (joint with Antonio David and Jorge Roldos).

Reports and Chapters

"Spillovers of US Monetary Tightening to Latin America": *Regional Economic Outlook: Western Hemisphere*. (2022). Washington, DC. (Co-author).

"The Inflation Surge: Policy Trade-offs Amid Uncertainty": *Regional Economic Outlook: Western Hemisphere*. (2022). Washington, DC. (Co-author).

"Productivity in Latin America and the Caribbean: Recent Trends and the COVID-19 Shock": *Regional Economic Outlook: Western Hemisphere*. (2022). Washington, DC. (Co-lead).

"Tax Policy for Inclusive Growth in Latin America and the Caribbean": *Regional Economic Outlook: Western Hemisphere*. (2021). Washington, DC. (Co-author).

"Pandemic Persistence Clouds the Recovery": *Regional Economic Outlook: Western Hemisphere*. (2020). Washington, DC. (Lead Author).

"Latin American Labor Markets During COVID-19": *Regional Economic Outlook: Western Hemisphere, Background Paper 2*. (2020). Washington, DC. (Co-lead).

"Labor Market Dynamics and Informality Over the Business Cycle in LAC": *Regional Economic Outlook: Western Hemisphere, Background Paper*. (2019). Washington, DC. (Co-lead).

"Capital Flows to Latin America in the Aftermath of the Commodities Super Cycle": *Regional Economic Outlook: Western Hemisphere, Background Paper*. (2019). Washington, DC. (Co-lead).

Ecuador: Trade and Investment Competitiveness Report. (2019). World Bank, Washington, DC. (Co-lead).

Dominican Republic: Systematic Country Diagnostic. (2019). World Bank, Washington, DC. (Co-lead).

Better Neighbors: Toward a Renewal of Economic Integration in Latin America. (2017). Washington, DC: World Bank (joint with Chad Bown, Daniel Lederman, and Raymond Robertson).

Latin America Treads a Narrow Path to Growth: The Slowdown and its Macroeconomic Challenges. (2015). LAC Semiannual Report (April), World Bank, Washington, DC, (joint with Augusto de la Torre and Alain Ize).

Latin American Entrepreneurs: Many Firms but Little Innovation. (2014). Washington, DC: World Bank (joint with Daniel Lederman, Julian Messina, and Jamele Rigolini).

Latin America's Deceleration and the Exchange Rate Buffer. (2013). LAC Semiannual Report (October), World Bank, Washington, DC, (joint with Augusto de la Torre and Eduardo Levy Yeyati).

Latin America and the Caribbean as Tailwinds Recede : In Search of Higher Growth. (2013). LAC Semiannual Report (April), World Bank, Washington, DC, (joint with Augusto de la Torre and Eduardo Levy Yeyati).

The Labor Market Story Behind Latin America's Transformation. (2012). LAC Semiannual Report (October), World Bank, Washington, DC, (joint with Augusto de la Torre and Julian Messina).

Latin America Copes with Volatility, the Dark Side of Globalization. (2012). LAC Semiannual Report (April), World Bank, Washington, DC, (joint with Augusto de la Torre and Tatiana Didier).

Blogs

"The prospects of renewed social unrest cast a shadow on the economic outlook", 2023, LSE Business Review (joint with Metodij Hadzi-Vaskov and Luca Antonio Ricci).

"Latin America Hit By One Inflationary Shock On Top of Another", 2022, IMF Blog (joint with Maximiliano Appendino and Ilan Goldfajn).

"Could Renewed Social Unrest Hinder the Recovery?", 2021, IMF Blog (joint with Metodij Hadzi-Vaskov and Luca Antonio Ricci).

"Pandemic Persistence Clouds Latin America and the Caribbean Recovery", 2020, IMF Blog/Vox Lacea (joint with Alejandro Werner and Jorge Roldos).

"Latin America's Informal Economy Dilemma", 2020, IMF Blog (joint with Antonio David and Jorge Roldos).

"Heterogeneous effects of trade agreements across product types", 2018, VoxEU (joint with Rebecca Freeman).

"Toward a Renewal of Economic Integration in Latin America and the Caribbean ", 2017, Vox Lacea (joint with Chad Bown, Daniel Lederman, and Raymond Robertson).

"Services on the Rise in Latin America", 2014, VoxEu (joint with Eduardo Levy-Yeyati).

"Wage compression and falling Latin American inequality", 2014, VoxEu (joint with Eduardo Levy-Yeyati).

"The Overstated Pessimism Over Latin America", 2014, VoxEu (joint with Augusto de la Torre and Eduardo Levy-Yeyati).

Languages

Spanish (native), English (fluent), and French (basic).

Econometric/Statistical Software

Stata (advanced), Eviews (intermediate), Matlab (intermediate), R (basic).