

Edwar E. Escalante

Contact Information

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Research Fields: Political Economy, Development Economics, Comparative Politics, Conflict
Regions of Research: Peru, Chile, Latin America.

Academic Employment

Norris-Vincent College of Business at Angelo State University, San Angelo, TX Economics Instructor	2019-Present
Free Market Institute at Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX Research Associate	2019-Present

Education

Texas Tech University, Ph.D. Agricultural and Applied Economics Dissertation: <i>The Political Economy of Violence and Development in Latin America</i>	2019
Texas Tech University, MS Agricultural and Applied Economics, Thesis: <i>Economics of Terrorism and Counter-terrorism in Peru</i>	2017
State University of San Antonio Abad, Cusco, Peru, BA Electrical Engineering, (Peru)	2007

Writing Sample

- “Did Pinochet Cause the Chilean Miracle?”

Abstract: This paper analyzes the impact of Augusto Pinochet’s autocracy on the Chilean economy. The study compares outcomes under Pinochet’s leadership with those in a synthetic counterfactual made of a weighted average of countries with similar characteristics. I find that, relative to the control, income per capita did not diverge till several years after Pinochet’s coup. In contrast, health outcomes measured by life expectancy improved immediately after Pinochet’s installment, though only slightly. The evidence I present suggests that the remarkable economic growth did not depend on Pinochet’s autocracy. Also, the results on life expectancy show that positive health effects may not be an exclusive consequence of democracies.

Publications

- “Night Watchers and Terrorists”
Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization

Abstract: A massive movement of night watchers or vigilantes’ patrols emerged among the most impoverished indigenous communities in the Andes at the end of the twentieth century to combat terrorism. Northern peasant patrols based their organization on democratic mechanisms while the southern patrols built a hierarchical structure. How does the variation of external threats shape the variation of governance structures and collective responses within extralegal groups? To organize the provision of security and defense against terrorism, these night watchers required mechanisms to control opportunistic behavior and prevent internal predation. This article develops an organizational theory of defense. The time horizon explains why the night watchers produced arrangements in vertical or horizontal forms. Peasant vigilantes depended on hierarchical mechanisms to enforce their agreements if and only if they confronted a short time horizon and a credible external threat. Comparative analysis of the northern and southern Peruvian communities provides empirical support for the theory.

- “Fighting on Christmas: Brawling and Self-Governance in Rural Peru.” (with Raymond March)
Journal of Institutional Economics.

Abstract: This paper analyzes the Southern Peruvian tradition of Takanakuy, a public brawling ritual occurring each Christmas to resolve disputes between local community members. We argue that Takanakuy provides a comparatively more effective way for locals to resolve their disputes than Peru’s formal judicial system. Using insights from fieldwork and media sources, we find Takanakuy provides greater access to and is more effective in resolving conflict. Participating in public brawling also provides community members with critical information on valuable but usually unobservable characteristics such as individual honor and willingness to abide by contractual obligations.

Research Papers

- “The Role of Women in Violent Organizations”
Under Review

Work in Progress

- “Was the Guano era a blessing or curse? Evidence from a Natural Experiment in Peru”
- “The Extensive Role of Terrorism: Competition and Coordination.” Presented at Southern Economic Association, SEA, Tampa, 2017.
- “The Shining Path: A Two-tiered hierarchy”

Published Policy Pieces

- Peru: President Humala Should Push for More Economic Freedom (with James Roberts), Report Americas, The Heritage Foundation, 2014.
- La mano invisible del Estado, Revista Perspectiva, Colombia, 2012.
- Narco-Terrorism in Peru: The Return of Shining Path (with James Roberts), Report Americas, The Heritage Foundation, 2009.
- Fighting for Freedom in Rural Peru: “ALBA Houses” Threaten Democracy (with James Roberts), Report Americas, The Heritage Foundation, 2008.
- Populism Clouds Peru’s Presidential Race (with Stephen Johnson), Report Americas, The Heritage Foundation, 2006.

Teaching Experience

- **As Professor (at Angelo State University):**

Principles of Microeconomics, ECO 2302, **Norris-Vincent College of Business**, Fall 2019

Principle of Macroeconomics, ECO 2301, **Norris-Vincent College of Business**, Fall 2019 – Spring 2020

International Economics, BECO 4310-004, **Norris-Vincent College of Business**, Fall 2019 – Spring 2020

Economic Development, BECO 4310-004, **Norris-Vincent College of Business**, Spring 2020

- **As Graduate Instructor (at Texas Tech University):**

Applied Business Economics, BECO 4310-004, **Rawls College of Business, Texas Tech University** Fall 2017, Spring 2018

- **As Visiting Instructor in Guatemala (Universidad Francisco Marroquin):**

Advanced Seminar on Economics, Economics Department, **Universidad Francisco Marroquin, UFM** Guatemala, Spring 2017

- **As Teaching Assistant (at Texas Tech University):**

Fundamentals of Agricultural Economics (Prof. Adam Martin) Fall 2016
Applied Business Economics (Prof. Andrew Young) Spring 2017

- **As Lecturer in Peru at State San Antonio Abad University (SAA)- Andes Libres Institute (AL):**

Note: State San Antonio Abad University is one of the best universities in Peru and the third oldest in the American continent.

Development Economics (at SAA)
Neo-Institutional Economics (at SAA)
Innovation and Entrepreneurship (at AL)
Governance and Policy-making (at AL)

Grants & Funding

- Fellowship, Free Market Institute at Texas Tech University 2015-18
- Institute of Humane Studies, PhD Fellowship (US\$1,500, US\$5,000) 2016-19
- Mont Pelerin Society, Travel Grant, Lima – Peru (US\$1,000) 2015
- Institutional Grants, Atlas Economic Research Foundation Partner (US\$200,000) 2011-15
- Philadelphia Society Meeting 2007-08

Awards

- Hayek Fund, Institute of Humane Studies (IHS) 2018
- Young Scholar Award, Association of Private Enterprise Education 2016-17
- Francisco Marroquin for Student Outreach, 2013
Note: This Award is given to Andes Libres Institute under Edwar Escalante's Direction for "its exceptional work with student groups in the most difficult areas of Peru" from Atlas Network Foundation, based in Washington, DC.

Past Professional Activities

- Executive Director and Founder, Andes Libres Institute 2008-2015
Andes Libres is an educational think tank based in Cusco, Peru
 - Educational Programs
 - Fundraising
 - Local Policy
 - External Relations
 - Partnered with San Antonio Abad State University in Cuzco, Peru.

Skills

- **Data management:** Stata.
- **Languages:** English, Spanish, Quechua (basic), French (Intermediate).
- **Online Teaching:** Training eLearning Workshops Blackboard.

Invited Talks

“Governing the Commons against Terrorism”

Invited Speaker, Economics Department, New Orleans University, (2018)

“Public Choice Economics”

Invited Speaker, State University of San Marcos, Lima -Peru, (2018)

“Economics of Terrorism”

Invited Speaker, Economics Department, Universidad Francisco Marroquin, UFM, Guatemala (2017)

“Governing the Commons against Terrorism”

Invited Speaker, Center Henry Hazlitt, Universidad Francisco Marroquin, UFM, Guatemala (2017)

“Synthetic Controls”

Visiting Professor, Economics Department, Universidad Francisco Marroquin, UFM, Guatemala (2017)

“Running a Think Tank in the Andes”

Invited Speaker, Atlas Network, Washington D.C., USA (2008)

- **Referee Reports:**

Journal of Private Enterprise

Journal of Institutional Economics

- **Affiliations:**

Ostrom Workshop, Indiana University

2018-Present

American Law and Economics Association

2017-Present

Public Choice Society

2016-Present

Southern Economic Association

2016-Present

