Lucas Garcia dos Santos

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Education

Southern Methodist University — Dallas, Texas, United States
Ph.D. in Economics — *2022 — Present*

Federal University of Pernambuco — Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil
Master of Science in Economics — *2022*

Santa Catarina State University — Florianópolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil
Bachelor of Science in Economics — *2019*

Research Interests

- Labor Economics
- Public Economics
- Applied Microeconomics

Job Market Paper

- **"Universal Cash Transfers and Income Inequality: Evidence from the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend"**.
  As automation and artificial intelligence reshape labor markets, unconditional cash transfers have gained attention as a potential policy response to rising income inequality. In this paper, I investigate the effects of universal cash transfers on income inequality, using the introduction of the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend in 1982 as a natural experiment. I focus on total household income inequality using data from the Current Population Survey. Using the synthetic control method, I find that Alaskan income inequality fell after the introduction of the dividend, a reduction of 0.02 in the Gini Index that is not statistically significant. I show that this decrease is consistent with the mechanical effect the policy should produce on its own, which suggests that behavioral responses have a negligible effect on income inequality.

Works in Progress

- **"Universal Cash Transfers and Higher Education: Evidence from the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend"**.
- **"The Evolution of Mobile and Manufactured Housing in the United States, 1990-2017"**. *With Nathaniel Pattison*

Publications

- **"Natural disasters and poverty: evidence from a flash flood in Brazil"**. 2024. *Environment, Development and Sustainability. With Marcos Vinicio Wink Junior, Felipe Garcia Ribeiro and Carolina S. Trindade*
- **"Convergence analysis of per capita income in municipalities in the South region of Brazil Between 1999 and 2014."** 2020. *Revista Brasileira de Gestão e Desenvolvimento Regional. With Adriano de Amarante and Fernanda da Silva.*

Conference Presentations

- **"Universal Cash Transfers and Income Inequality: Evidence from the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend."** Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting. *Upcoming Nov 21*
- **"Universal Cash Transfers and Income Inequality: Evidence from the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend."** North Texas Economics Conference. *Upcoming Nov 7*
- **"Universal Cash Transfers and Income Inequality: Evidence from the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend."** STATA TX Empirical Microeconomics Conference. *October 2025*

Additional Research Experience

- **Research Assistant to Professor Timothy Salmon at Southern Methodist University.** 2025-2026
  Assessed the reproducibility of empirical research in papers accepted at *Economic Inquiry*. Worked through other researchers' data and code to determine whether published results could be reproduced and to document any discrepancies. Gained broad exposure to how researchers across fields build, document, and share their empirical work.

Internships

- **Intern at Santa Catarina's State Department of Sustainable Economic Development.** 2017
  Assisted in the management of data and applications of the Santa Catarina Business Development Program (PRODEC), and the Santa Catarina's sustainable energy development program (SC+Energia).

Teaching Experience

Teaching assistant PhD
Microeconomics, Behavioral Economics, Labor Economics, Econometrics, Experimental Economics - SMU *2024-2026*

Teaching assistant Masters
Python Programming in Economics - UFPE *2022*

Teaching assistant Masters
Real Analysis - UFPE *2021*

Teaching assistant Undergraduate
Intermediate Microeconomics - UDESC *2018*

Grants and Fellowships

- **Moody Graduate Fellowship.** United States. *2022-Present*
- **National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPQ) Fellowship.** Brazil. *2019-2022*
- **Provost's Summer Research Grant**. United States. *Summer 2026*

Skills

Tools : Python, SQL, LaTeX, STATA, R

Languages : Portuguese (native), English

References

- **Dr. Nathaniel Pattison.** Advisor. *npattison@smu.edu*
- **Dr. Timothy Salmon** Committee Member. *tsalmon@smu.edu*
- **Dr. Daniel Millimet**. Committee Member. *millimet@smu.edu*