

## Research Interest

Ezequiel Molina is PhD candidate in Political Economy at Princeton University and holds a Licentiate and a Master's Degree in Economics from Universidad Nacional de La Plata in Argentina. Ezequiel has been working on development since 2005 and has experience working in developing countries as well as international agencies. Before joining the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University, Ezequiel was a Junior Professional Associate at the Poverty and Gender Unit for Latin American Region at the World Bank.

**Fields of Concentration:** Ezequiel took his general examinations in the field of Political Economy (Economics Department) and Formal and Quantitative Methods (Political Science Department). His areas of interest are political economy, program evaluation and development economics.

## Education

<b>Princeton University</b> PhD in Political Economy	2009 - August 2013 (Expected)
<b>Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina</b> Master's degree (Magister) in Economics	2005 - 2009
<b>Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina</b> Licentiate in Economics	2000 - 2005 Manuel Belgrano's Award.

## Work Experience

<b>World Bank</b> Washington, DC Consultant for the Poverty and Equity Group at the World Bank to conduct my own research on "Opportunity and Economic Growth".	Consultant June - September 2011
<b>World Bank</b> Washington, DC Research assistant at the World Bank, Poverty and Gender Unit for Latin American and Caribbean Region	Junior Professional Associate March 2007 - March 2009
<b>World Bank</b> Buenos Aires, Argentina Research assistant for Professor Mariano Tommasi and Jaime Saavedra on "Informality, the State and the Social Contract in Latin America: A Preliminary Exploration", published on <i>International Labor Review</i> (2007).	Consultant November 2006 - March 2007
<b>Foundation for Latin American Economic Research (FIEL)</b> Buenos Aires, Argentina Conducted research on the political economy of implementing a Social Tariff for Argentina Public Utilities. (Joint work with Fernando Navajas, Walter Cont and Santiago Urbiztondo.)	Consultant August 2006 - March 2007
<b>Center for Distributional, Labor and Social Studies (CEDLAS)</b> La Plata, Argentina Conducted research on the Political Economy of Poverty and Inequality and Conflict in Latin America.	Junior Researcher March 2005 - March 2007

## Publications

### Articles

#### **Polarization in Latin America: Patterns and Links with Institutions and Conflict**

Journal: Oxford Development Studies, Volume 36, Issue 4 - December 2008 , pages 461 - 484, United Kingdom.

Authors: Ezequiel Molina, Leonardo Gasparini, Sergio Olivieri and Matias Horenstein.

#### **(In Spanish) Inequality and Institutions in an Intertemporal Framework** 2008

Journal: XLI Annual Meeting of the Argentine Association of Political Economy (AAEP), Salta, Argentina.

Authors: Ezequiel Molina and Martin Guzman.

### Books

#### **(In Spanish) Economic Polarization, Institutions and Conflict** 2008

Editors: Uqbar Editors, Cieplan Colection, Santiago de Chile, Chile.

Authors: Ezequiel Molina, Leonardo Gasparini, Sergio Olivieri and Matias Horenstein.

## Current Projects

### **Bottom Up Institutional Reform**

*Description.* In 2008 the National Planning Department (DNP) of Colombia, in an effort to strengthen the participation of communities in monitoring the use of royalties, created the Community Visible Audit (CVA) program (“Auditoria Visible”). This is a Community Monitoring program for the provision of infrastructure local public goods, i.e. access to water and sanitation, access to sewerage, paved roads, etc.

This study will measure the impact of the CVA program on the efficient use of public expenditure and institutional quality. This work will allow us to understand both: a) whether the CVA program was able to reduce corruption (both perceived and actual); and b) whether the CVA program improved accountability in service delivery and political representation.

### **Political Economy of Social Safety Net Reform**

*Description.* MENA region spends significant resources on universal subsidies, such as fuel and food. The fiscal burden of subsidies, along with inefficiency, fiscal leakages and the fact that they are often pro-rich/regressive are generally cited as the major rationales for reform. International experience suggests that two key questions determine the feasibility of subsidy reform: how they can be implemented without creating social unrest, and which design features of such reform can ensure their acceptance and make them durable. As part of a regional study on social safety nets, we will play an experimental game on the field to inform policy makers about people’s preferences and extent of support for several alternative reform packages, where the difference in acceptance between these alternatives can be attributed to differences in the reform design (in terms of compensation for themselves, helping the poor in kind or conditionally, targeting, and transparency mechanism).

### **Understanding Water Rights Effects on Beliefs and Social Capital in Peru**

*Description.* The proposed study develops a randomized control trial to evaluate the impact of the program of formalization of water rights for irrigation use in Peru on several outcome of interest, among them: conflict, beliefs and income generation. The study goes beyond average treatment effects and make use of causal mediation analysis technique to uncover the mechanism behind the black box of the experiment.

**Media Bias as an Instrument of Economic Growth**

January 2011

*Abstract:* This paper studies the extent to which threat of expropriation affects firms decisions to invest and the resulting level of economic growth under distinct configurations of the media industry. The model emphasizes information problems resulting from the lack of credible commitment on the part of the government as well as from voters lack of information on incumbent's ability. The political incumbents have different levels of competence that is not directly observed by voters. Incumbent face a trade off between expropriating firms to produce more public good or respect the rule of law to foster investment and growth. The innovation of this paper lies in adding a new player to this game. Now the media outlet is a tool voters use to update their priors on incumbent's ability. The paper derives investment and growth equilibria for this model in each of the three potential configurations of the media industry: independent, profit maximizing and integrated with investors. Another innovation of the paper is allowing media integration with investors, as through this mechanism the government may be able to signal their credibility. Finally, I allow the configurations of the media industry to be endogenous and study under which conditions is a given configuration most likely to arise.

Author: Ezequiel Molina.

**Bribe and Punishment: Revisiting Plata o Plomo**

September 2010

Author: Ezequiel Molina.

**The Real Bottom Line: Benchmarking Poverty in Latin America**

Revised on 2010

Working Paper, World Bank, Washington DC, USA.

Authors: Ezequiel Molina, Jaime Saavedra, John Newman and Joao Pedro Wagner de Azevedo.

**How is Poverty Likely to be Affected by the Economic Crisis in Latin America? 2009**

Working Paper, World Bank, Washington DC, USA.

Authors: Ezequiel Molina, Eliana Rubiano, Jaime Saavedra, John Newman and Joao Pedro Wagner de Azevedo.

**Does Participation in Productive Associations Signal Trust and Creditworthiness?**

Policy Research Working Paper WPS4512, 2008, World Bank, Washington DC, USA.

Authors: Ezequiel Molina and Diego Angel-Urdinola.

**Income Distribution, Institutions and Conflicts: An Exploratory Analysis**

2006

CEDLAS Working paper, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Authors: Ezequiel Molina and Leonardo Gasparini.

**Fellowships,  
Honors and  
Awards**

**Research Program in Political Economy, Princeton University**

March 2012

Research Grant awarded by the Research Program in Political Economy to conducted research on "Bottom Up Institutional Reform", an upcoming chapter from my dissertation.

**Woodrow Wilson Summer Research Grant, Princeton University**

Summer 2010

Research Grant awarded by Woodrow Wilson School. I conducted research on "Growth, Inequality and Political Institutions in Latin America" supervised by Carles Boix.

**Princeton University Fellowship**

2009-2013

Full Tuition and stipend.

**Lassen Fellowship and Research Grant**

2009

Lassen Fellowship and research grant, awarded by the Program in Latin America Studies at Princeton University due to his commitment to the study of the region and outstanding academic record.

**Postgraduate Research Incentive**

2006

Postgraduate Research Incentive granted by the National Council of Scientific Research (CON-ICET), Ministry of Science, Innovation and Technology of Argentina. (Equivalent to the National Science Foundation (NSF) in United States). (Declined)

**Manuel Belgrano's Award**

2005

Award given to the top five GPAs in the Licentiate in Economics, granted by the Department

of Economics, Universidad Nacional de La Plata.

<b>Teaching Experience</b>	<b>Princeton University, Department of Economics.</b> Fall 2011 Teaching Fellow on International Development. (Professor: Alicia Adsera)
	<b>Princeton University, Alumni Association.</b> Spring 2011 Instructor of a six-week alumni studies course on Financial Market Regulation.
	<b>Princeton University, Junior Summer Institute.</b> Summer 2010 Instructor of the Advanced Statistics and Econometrics Course at the Woodrow Wilson School for the Junior Summer Institute.
	<b>Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Master in Public Finance.</b> Fall 2006 Invited Lecturer on the Economics of Regulation's course. (Professor: Walter Cont)
	<b>Universidad de San Andres, Master in Economics.</b> Fall 2006 Invited Lecturer on the Political Economy's course. (Professor: Mariano Tommasi)
	<b>Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Department of Economics</b> Fall 2006 Teaching Fellow in Econometrics II. This course is the second sequence of Econometrics in the undergraduate program in Economics. (Professor: Hildegart Ahumada and Lorena Garegnani)
	<b>Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Department of Economics</b> Fall 2006 Teaching Fellow in Industrial Organization. (Professor: Fernando Navajas)
	<b>Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Department of Economics</b> Spring 2005-2006 Teaching Fellow in Economics of Regulation and Public Utilities. (Professor: Santiago Urbiztondo)
	<b>Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Department of Economics</b> Spring 2005 Teaching Fellow in Introduction to Economics. (Professor: Daniel Solari)
	<b>Other Training</b>
<b>Columbia University.</b> Spring 2012 <i>Experimental Research Course (W4368)</i> taught by Donald Green.	
<b>University of Wisconsin-Madison.</b> August 4-6, 2008. <i>Applied Microeconometrics Course</i> taught by Guido Imbens and Jeffrey Wooldridge.	
<b>International Monetary Fund.</b> November 19-20, 2007. <i>Current Issues in Microeconometrics Course</i> taught by Richard Blundell.	
<b>International Monetary Fund.</b> September 4-7, 2007. <i>Political Economy Course</i> taught by Allen Drazen.	
<b>Other Information</b>	
<b>Languages.</b> Spanish (native) English (fluent). Cambridge First certificate in English: B, Toefl: 103 (internet-based). I have also passed the English Test administered by Princeton University in order to be able to be the teach at Princeton.	
<b>Computer Languages.</b> Statistical Software including Stata, Mathematica, R, Pc-Give and Mat Lab.	
<b>Personal.</b> Born in La Plata, Argentina on the 17th of June, 1982 and holds double nationality (Argentinean-Italian).	