

María Alejandra Vélez, PhD

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CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS AND AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

My research interests focus on decision-making and institutional design concerning developing country environmental and natural resource issues. Using economic field experiments, I have been studying local resource sharing and collective action dilemmas of rural villagers in Colombia, Brazil and Honduras. Recently I am studying the effect of payment of environmental services on conservation outcomes; the impacts of collective property-rights regimes on institutional changes, landscape, and welfare of Afro-Colombian communities on the Pacific Coast and the expansion of illicit economies in the Pacific Region.

- Behavioral and Experimental Economics
- Resource and Environmental Economics
- Rural and Sustainable Development

Education

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, USA

PhD Resource Economics, May 2006.

Area of Specialization: Natural Resource and Environmental Economics

Dissertation: Three Essays on the Determinants of Behavior in the Commons: Experimental Evidence from Fishing Communities in Colombia.

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, USA

Master of Science Degree in Resource Economics

Finished all requirements by September 2004. Received Diploma by February 2005.

Los Andes University, Bogotá, Colombia.

BA Economics, September 1999.

Thesis: An economic analysis of Colombian guerrillas' (FARC and ELN) evolution and patterns of territorial expansion.

Academic Experience

Scientific and Research Coordinator- Center for Sustainable Development Goals for Latin America and the Caribbean (CODS), Universidad de los Andes

July 2018-July 2019

Associate Professor, School of Management, Universidad de los Andes

Since 2008- July 2019

Duke Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies- Duke University, Durham, NC

Mellon Visiting Professor, August – December 2013.

Center for Research on Environmental Decision – Columbia University, New York City

Postdoctoral Research Scientist, September 2006- August 2008.

Research on decision making under uncertainty, with a focus on water management and climate variability in Ceara, Brazil.

Research Assistant at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst

June 2002-2005 Professors John Stranlund and Jim Murphy, Department of Resource Economics.
Project: Design and conduct laboratory experiments to test compliance behavior and enforcement strategies for environmental policies.

Teaching Assistant at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst

January 2002 - June 2002, Introductory Statistics for Social Sciences, Department of Resource Economics.

September 2001 - December 2001, Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Economics, Department of Resource Economics.

Lecturer, Los Andes University, Bogotá, Colombia

September 1999 - December 1999. Introductory Economics, Economics Department

Teaching Assistant at Los Andes University, Bogotá, Colombia

1997- 1996 Introductory Economics and Economic Indicators, Economics Department.

Professional Experience

Institute Alexander Von Humboldt - Colombia

Researcher Biotrade Program, January 2000 - August 2001.

Advised traditional communities and small companies on the sustainable trade of biodiversity products.

National Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia

Economic Analyst and Advisor, July 1999 - December 1999.

Conducted a survey and produced a report regarding the production and trade of organic coffee in Colombia.

Publications

Journal Articles

Rueda, X., Vélez, M.A., Moros, L., & Rodríguez, L.A. (2019). Beyond proximate and distal causes of land-use change: Linking Individual motivations to deforestation in rural contexts. *Ecology and Society*, 24 (1):4. doi:10.5751/es-10617-240104

Vélez, M.A., & Lobo, I. (2019). Challenges of Organised Community Resistance in the Context of Illicit Economies and Drug War Policies: Insights from Colombia. *Journal of Illicit Economies and Development*, 1(1), 72–79. doi:10.31389/jied.15

Moros, L., Vélez, M.A., & Corbera, E. (2019). Payments for ecosystem services and motivational crowding in Colombia's Amazon Piedmont. *Ecological Economics*, 156, 468-488. doi:10.1016/j.ecolecon.2017.11.032

- Pfaff, A., Vélez, M.A., Broad, K., Hamoudi, A., & Taddei, R. (2017). Contracts versus trust for transfers of ecosystem services: Equity and efficiency in resource allocation and environmental provision. *Water Resources and Economics*. doi:10.1016/j.wre.2018.04.001
- Peña, X., Vélez, M.A., Cárdenas, J.C., Perdomo, N., & Matajira, C. (2017). Collective Property Leads to Household Investments: Lessons From Land Titling in Afro-Colombian Communities. *World Development*, 97, 27-48. doi:10.1016/j.worlddev.2017.03.025
- Lobo, I.D., Vélez, M.A., & Puerto, S. (2016). Leadership, entrepreneurship and collective action: A case study from the Colombian Pacific Region. *International Journal of the Commons*, 10(2). doi:10.18352/ijc.640
- Vélez, M.A., Trujillo, C.A., Moros, L., & Forero, C. (2016). Prosocial Behavior and Subjective Insecurity in Violent Contexts: Field Experiments. *PLOS One*, 11(7): e0158878. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0158878
- Pfaff, A., Vélez, M.A., Ramos, P.A., & Molina, A. (2015). Framed field experiment on resource scarcity & extraction: Path-dependent generosity within sequential water appropriation. *Ecological Economics*, 120, 416–429. doi:10.1016/j.ecolecon.2015.06.002
- Vélez, M.A., & López, M.C. (2013). Rules compliance and age: experimental evidence with fishers from the Amazon river. *Ecology and Society*, 18(3):10. doi:10.5751/ES-05721-180310
- Pfaff, A., Vélez, M.A., Broad, K., & Taddei, R. (2013). Unequal Information, Unequal Allocation: Bargaining field experiments in NE Brazil. *Environmental Science and Policy*, 26, 90-101. doi:10.1016/j.envsci.2012.07.002
- Vélez, M.A., Stranlund, J.K., & Murphy, J.J. (2012). Preferences for Government Enforcement of a Common Pool Harvest Quota: Theory and Experimental Evidence from Fishing Communities in Colombia. *Ecological Economics*, 77, 185-192. doi:10.1016/j.ecolecon.2012.02.030
- Pfaff, A., & Vélez, M.A. (2012). Efficiency and Equity in Negotiated Resource Transfers: Contributions and Limitations of Trust with Limited Contracts. *Ecological Economics*. 74, 55-63. doi:10.1016/j.ecolecon.2011.10.009
- Vélez, M.A., Ramos, P., & Alayón, L. (2011). Instituciones Anidadas para prevenir y resolver conflictos socio-ambientales: manejo y distribución del agua en Campo Alegre (Huila, Colombia). *Cuadernos de Desarrollo Rural*, 8(67), 71-90. Recovered from <http://www.scielo.org.co/pdf/cudr/v8n67/v8n67a04.pdf>
- Vélez, M.A. (2011). Collective Titling and the Process of Institution Building: The New Common Property Regime in the Colombian Pacific. *Human Ecology*. 39(2), 117-129. doi:10.1007/s10745-011-9375-1
- Peterson, N., Broad, K., Orlove, B., Roncoli, C., Taddei, R., & Vélez, M.A. (2010). Participatory processes and climate forecast use: Socio-cultural context, discussion, and consensus. *Climate and Development*, 2(1), 14-29. doi:10.3763/cdev.2010.0033

- Vélez, M.A., Murphy, J.J., & Stranlund, J.K. (2010). Centralized and Decentralized Management of Local Common Pool Resources in the Developing World: Experimental Evidence from Fishing Communities in Colombia. *Economic Inquiry*, 48(2), 254–265. doi:10.2139/ssrn.928968
- Patt, A., Peterson, N., Carter, M., Vélez, M.A., Hess, U., & Suarez, P. (2009) Making index insurance attractive to farmers. *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global*, 14, 737–753. doi:10.1007/s11027-009-9196-3
- Vélez, M.A. (2009). Sistemas complejos de gobierno local. Reflexiones sobre la titulación colectiva en el Pacífico vallecaucano. *Revista de Estudios Sociales*, (32), 74-85. doi:10.7440/res32.2009.05
- Vélez, M.A., Stranlund, J.K., & Murphy, J.J. (2009). What Motivates Common Pool Resource Users? Experimental Evidence from the Field. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 70(3), 485-497. doi:10.2139/ssrn.701262
- Vélez, M.A. (2007). Dissertation Abstract: Three Essays on the Determinants of Behavior in the Commons: Experimental Evidence from Fishing Communities in Colombia. *Experimental Economics*, 10(2), 183-184. doi:10.1007/s10683-006-9142-0
- Vélez, M.A. (2001). FARC-ELN: Evolución y Expansión Territorial. *Revista Desarrollo y Sociedad*, 47, 151-225. doi:10.13043/dys.47.4

Book Chapters

- Rodríguez Becerra, M. & Vélez, M.A. (Eds.) (2018). *Gobernanza y gerencia del desarrollo sostenible*. Bogotá: Universidad de los Andes, Facultad de Administración, Ediciones Uniandes.
- Rueda, X., Vélez, M.A., & Puerto, S. (2018). El rol del Estado en la gobernanza social y ambiental empresarial. In Rodríguez Becerra, M. & Vélez, M.A. (Eds.), *Gobernanza y gerencia del desarrollo sostenible*. Bogotá: Universidad de los Andes, Facultad de Administración, Ediciones Uniandes.
- Vélez, M.A. (2014). Entre el Estado y la Sociedad Civil: El rol de los consejos en la gestión de lo público. In Forero, C., & Díaz, L. (Eds.), *Dilemas de lo Público*. Facultad de Administración. Ediciones Uniandes.
- Moeltner, K., Murphy J.J., Stranlund, J.K., & Vélez, M.A. (2013). Institutional Heterogeneity in Social Dilemma Games: A Bayesian Examination. In Elgar, E. (Eds.) *Handbook On Experimental Economics and the Environment*. (pp. 67-88). United States.
- Vélez, M.A., Moros, L., & Bermúdez, J.F. (2013). Experimentos económicos: herramienta pedagógica para el salón de clases. (pp. 81-122). In *Ciencias Sociales: Usos Métodos y Aplicaciones*. Colombia: Pontificia Universidad Javeriana.
- Montenegro, S., & Vélez, M.A. (2006). La economía política del café y el petróleo hasta los años noventa. (pp. 243-277). In *Sociedad Abierta, Geografía y Desarrollo*. Colombia: Norma.

Vélez, M.A. (2001). Facilitación del Comercio de Bienes y Servicios amigables con el medio ambiente. (pp. 151-173) In *Cinco Estudios Sudamericanos Sobre Comercio Y Ambiente*. Ecuador: Grupo Zapallar, Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano.

Teaching Cases

Lobo, I., Moros, L., & Vélez, M.A. (2013). Post-conflict in the classroom: pedagogical challenges for a divided society. In *Serie Casos de Enseñanza*. CP- 05-01. Centro de Aprendizaje Centrado en el Participante, Facultad de Administración, Universidad de los Andes.

Other

Vélez, M.A., Robalino, J., Cárdenas, J.C., Paz, A., & Pacay, E. (2019). Is Collective Titling Enough to Protect Forests? Evidence from Afro-descendant Communities in the Colombian Pacific Region. Documento Cede No.3. ISSN 1657-7191 Edición electrónica.

Vélez, M.A., Rueda, X., Moros, L., Guerrero, A. & Link, A. (2017). Recomendaciones para el diseño e implementación de incentivos para la conservación en paisajes agrícolas. Documento de Política Pública N°48. Foro Nacional Ambiental. Recovered from <http://www.foronacionalambiental.org.co/publicaciones/detalle/documento-de-politica-publica-no48-recomendaciones-para-el-diseno-e-implementacion-de-incentivos-para-la-conservacion-en-paisajes-agricolas/>

Peña, X., Vélez, M.A., Cárdenas, J.C., Perdomo, N., & Matajira, C. (2016). Collective Property Leads to Household Investments: Lessons From Land Titling in Afro-Colombian Communities, Documento Cede No. 13. ISSN 1657-7191 Edición electrónica.

Peña, X., Vélez, M.A., Cárdenas, J.C., Perdomo, N., & Matajira, C. (2016). La Propiedad Colectiva Mejora las Inversiones de los Hogares: Lecciones de la Titulación de Tierras a las Comunidades Afrocolombianas. Documento Cede No. 26. ISSN 1657-7191 Edición electrónica.

Peña, X., Vélez, M.A., Cárdenas, J.C., Perdomo, N., & Matajira, C. (2016). Impacto de la titulación colectiva a las comunidades negras del pacífico. Principales resultados. Nota de Política. No. 26- ISSN 2027-7199. Octubre 2016.

Vélez, M.A., Rocha, J.C., & Ramos, P.A. (2009). Titulación colectiva en el Pacífico vallecaucano: manejo del territorio y los recursos naturales. Bogotá: Universidad de los Andes, Facultad de Administración, Ediciones Uniandes.

López, M., Maya, D., Mosquera, L., & Vélez, M.A. (2006). *Normas y Reglas para la Regulación del Recurso Pesquero. Memorias de Juegos Económicos y Taller en la Ensenada de Tumaco*. Universidad Javeriana, WWF- Colombia, Universidad de Massachusetts, Amherst.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM ME IN THE FUTURE?

In progress:

“Is Collective Titling Enough to Protect Forests? Evidence from Afro-descendant Communities in the Colombian Pacific Region”. With Juan Robalino; Juan C Cardenas; Andrea Paz; Eduardo Pacay. **Revise and resubmit.**

“Collective incentives for cleaner mining on developing frontiers: Rewarding group environmental compliance in Colombia using lab-in-field experiments with artisanal gold miners”. With Luz Angela Rodriguez and Alexander Pfaff. **Revise and resubmit.**

“Regrouping to Reduce Overfishing: Evidence from a Series of Experiments with Fishermen”. With Andreas Leibbrandt and Sergio Puerto.

“Convenient conservation: Discourses of payments for ecosystem services in Colombia”. *With* Lina Moros, Esteve Corbera; and Daniel Flechas.

“Practising the Commons: From Common Property Regimes to Collective Enterprises”. With Ivan Lobo.

“Unraveling the efficiency and equity effects of communication in collective compliance: The role of leaders among small-scale gold miners in Colombia”. With Luz Rodriguez and Alex Pfaff.

“Community Resistance and Collective Action in the Context of Illicit Economies”. With Ivan Lobo y Santiago Caicedo.

“Targeting and learning by doing in Colombia’s first publicly funded Payment for Ecosystem Services scheme “Yo protejo agua para todos”. With Lina Moros and Estebe Corbera.

Selected Press Articles

Vélez, M.A. (30 de Abril 2019) ¿Cómo debería ser la ciudad del futuro?. La Silla Vacía. <https://lasillavacia.com/silla-llena/blogoeconomia/como-deberia-ser-la-ciudad-del-futuro-70881>

Vélez, M.A. (16 de marzo de 2019) ¿Para qué glifosato? Aquí hay comunidades. La Silla Vacía. <https://lasillavacia.com/silla-llena/red-pacifico/historia/para-que-glifosato-aqui-hay-comunidades-70452>

Vélez, M.A. (6 de febrero de 2019). ¿Qué le falta al Plan de Desarrollo para combatir la deforestación? La Silla Vacía. <https://lasillavacia.com/silla-llena/blogoeconomia/historia/que-le-falta-al-plan-de-desarrollo-para-combatir-la-deforestacion>

Vélez, M.A. (21 de octubre de 2018). Propiedad Colectiva en el Pacífico Colombiano. La Silla Vacía. <https://lasillavacia.com/silla-llena/blogoeconomia/historia/propiedad-colectiva-en-el-pacifico-colombiano-68478>

- Vélez, M.A. (20 de diciembre de 2015). La voz de resistencia en Yurumanguí. Semana Sostenible. <https://sostenibilidad.semana.com/medio-ambiente/articulo/yurumanguí-la-voz-de-la-resistencia-minera/34377>
- Vélez, M.A. (18 de diciembre de 2015). Yurumanguí: comenzamos a subir. Semana Sostenible. <https://sostenibilidad.semana.com/medio-ambiente/articulo/yurumanguí-comenzamos-a-subir/34369>
- Vélez, M.A. (16 de diciembre de 2015). Yurumanguí: imágenes de la resistencia. Semana Sostenible. <https://sostenibilidad.semana.com/medio-ambiente/articulo/yurumanguí-imagenes-de-la-resistencia/34354>
- Moros, L., Vélez, M.A., y Lobo, I.D. (16 de enero de 2015). El postconflicto en el salón de clases. La Silla Vacía. <https://lasillavacia.com/elblogueo/blog/el-postconflicto-en-el-salon-de-clases>
- Vélez, M.A. (12 de septiembre de 2014). Minería ilegal en territorios colectivos. La Silla Vacía. <https://lasillavacia.com/elblogueo/blog/mineria-ilegal-en-territorios-colectivos-48595>
- Vélez, M.A. (27 de marzo de 2014). Ecomanglar: en la ruta del ecoturismo. Semana Sostenible. <https://sostenibilidad.semana.com/negocios-verdes/articulo/bahia-malaga/30886>
- Vélez, M.A. (4 de diciembre de 2011). Gasolina barata. La Silla Vacía. <https://lasillavacia.com/elblogueo/blogverde/30062/gasolina-barata>
- Vélez, M.A. (21 de agosto de 2011). Propuestas para una Bogotá Amigable con el Medio Ambiente: ¿Cuál es el candidato más verde -verde de verdad-? La Silla Vacía. <https://lasillavacia.com/elblogueo/blogverde/26932/propuestas-para-una-bogota-amigable-con-el-medio-ambiente-cual-es-el-candi>
- Vélez, M.A. (16 de mayo de 2011). ¿Quién debe asumir los costos de la conservación? La Silla Vacía. <https://lasillavacia.com/elblogueo/blogverde/24390/quien-debe-asumir-los-costos-de-la-conservacion>
- Vélez, M.A. (14 de marzo de 2011). Más allá de la locomotora minera. La Silla Vacía. <https://lasillavacia.com/elblogueo/blogverde/22547/mas-alla-de-la-locomotora-minera>
- Vélez, M.A. (31 de enero de 2011). La hoja de coca no es droga. La Silla Vacía. <https://lasillavacia.com/elblogueo/blogverde/21381/la-hoja-de-coca-no-es-droga>
- Vélez, M.A. (11 de octubre de 2010). Viajeros del Siglo XXI. La Silla Vacía. <https://lasillavacia.com/elblogueo/blogverde/18617/viajeros-del-siglo-xxi>
- Vélez, M.A. (24 de agosto de 2010). ¿Paternalismo Verde? La Silla Vacía. <https://lasillavacia.com/elblogueo/blogverde/17587/paternalismo-verde>
- Vélez, M.A. (28 de junio de 2010). Los Dragones del Río: Oro en Chocó. La Silla Vacía. <https://lasillavacia.com/elblogueo/blogverde/16334/los-dragones-del-rio-oro-en-choco>

Vélez, M.A. (17 de mayo de 2010). ¿Los verdes son de verdad verdes? La Silla Vacía.
<https://lasillavacia.com/elblogueo/blogverde/13057/los-verdes-son-de-verdad-verdes>

Vélez, M.A. (7 de febrero de 2010). Sin Título. La Silla Vacía.
<https://lasillavacia.com/elblogueo/blogverde/6580/sin-titulo>

Teaching

- Public Management – Undergraduate Level
- Environmental and Resource Economics- Graduate Level
- Behavioral Economics and Development Applications- Graduate Level
- Introduction to Behavioral Science-Graduate Level
- Current Environmental and Natural Resources Issues in Latin America, Undergraduate Level, Duke University.
- Introduction to Field Experiments: Cases in Latin America- Graduate Level, Duke University

Awards

2015 Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics (SIOE). Best Poster Presentation Award: “Subjective Insecurity and Cooperation: Evidence from Field Experiments in Violence Contexts”, with Carlos Trujillo, Lina Moros y Clemente Forero

Young Researcher Delegate to the 46th annual International Achievement Summit. Academy of Achievement, Washington DC, April 2007.

Fellow Latin American and Caribbean Environmental Economics Program (LACEEP), March, 2007. “Collective Titling and the Process of Institution Building: Common Property Regime in the Colombian Pacific”.

Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies Travel Grant for Graduate Students 2005. University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Member of University of Massachusetts Chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi 2003. Graduate School Fellowship Award 2003 – 2004, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Carolyn Harper Fellowship, Department of Resource Economics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 2002.

Best Undergraduate Thesis Project in Social Sciences and Economics, Los Andes University, Bogotá 1999. Thesis: FARC - ELN: Evolution and Territorial Expansion.

Selected Presentations

- Keynote speaker Annual Conference, Environment for Development (EfD) Initiative, Hanoi, November, 2018.
- Keynote speaker at EDF's Science Day "Behavioral Economics and Science", NYC, October 2015.
- Lecturer at Summer Course for Professors: "Experimental Economics as a Pedagogical Tool" - Summer School, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Campus Estado de México- July 2014

Editorial Boards

Associate Editor, Journal of Environment and Development Economics

Member Editorial Board, Journal of Illicit Economies and Development

Review Editor, People and Forests, Frontiers in Forest and Global Change

Reviewer

Ecological Economics, PlosOne, International Journal of the Commons, Conservation Letters, Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Conservation and Society, Cuadernos de Desarrollo Rural, World Development, Desarrollo y Sociedad, European Review Agricultural Economics, Latin American Research Review.

Grants

Principal Investigator. "What happens when people no longer receive payments for ecosystem services? Effects on motivation and behavior due to the partial or total removal of PES". Funded by EfD:2019-2021.

Principal Investigator. "What happens when people no longer receive payments for ecosystem services? Effects on motivation and behavior due to the partial or total removal of PES". Funded by EfD: 2019-2021.

Principal Investigator. "Sino es coca qué?". Funded y Open Society Foundation- CESED: 2017-2018.

Principal Investigator "Diseño de un sistema de incentivos para la conservación de la biodiversidad." Funded by Patrimonio Natural-Programa Conservación y Gobernanza: 2016-2017.

Research Partner. "Shifting social norms and attitudes in fishing communities to reduce the occurrence of irregular and illegal fishing". Funded by EDF

Principal Investigator. “Comportamientos pro-sociales y asociatividad en un contexto de violencia”. Funded by Federación Nacional de Cafeteros.

Research Partner. “Understanding and Improving Environmental Decisions”. Funded by Duke University.

Professional Associations

AERE, EARE, IASC, EfD Initiative

Languages

English and Spanish