SANTIAGO CANTILLO-CLEVES

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ACADEMIC AFFILIATION
Department of Economics
University of California San Diego

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Economy; Economic History; Development; Public Policy; Applied Microeconomics

ACADEMIC ADVISORS

Samuel Bazzi, Sara Lowes, Gordon Dahl, and Craig McIntosh

EDUCATION	DEGREE	DATE	FIELD
University of California San Diego	PhD	June 2027 (expected)	Economics
Universidad de los Andes	MA	2020	Economics
Honors thesis: Consumption Enhancing Roads			
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Grad. visiting student	2020	Economics
Universidad de los Andes	BA	2018	Government & Public Affairs
Universidad de los Andes	BA	2017	Economics
Minor in Public Law			

JOB MARKET PAPER

- **"Rallying the Mass Media: News Networks and the Geography of Political Campaigns"**

Abstract: Communication technologies have sharply reduced the cost of moving information across space, but because networks expand unevenly, the same message reaches larger audiences from some places than from others. I study whether the expansion of news agencies, which collected and supplied news to subscribing newspapers, changed how U.S. presidential campaign speeches spread and where candidates chose to deliver them between 1880 and 1916. Analyzing millions of newspaper articles, I construct data on campaign speeches, their coverage, and each newspaper's access to a news agency. Once two counties both had news-agency access, the probability that a speech in one was covered in the other more than doubled, from about 1.3 percent to 2.8 percent, with larger increases at shorter distances. I use these estimates to construct each county's *media reach*, the expected number of outside voters reachable from a speech there. Exploiting the evolution of the news-agency network elsewhere while holding local access fixed, I find that a one-standard-deviation increase in media reach raised the probability that a county hosted a speech by 2.2 percentage points, from a baseline of 11 percent. Mass communication thus shaped both how political messages traveled and where politicians chose to deliver them.

PUBLICATIONS

- "A Toolkit for Setting and Evaluating Price Floors", with Carlos Hernández. *Journal of Public Economics*, 232, 2024.
- "The Traveling Trucker Problem", with Treb Allen, David Atkin, and Carlos Hernández. *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 114, 2024.

WORKING PAPERS

- "Trucks", with Treb Allen, David Atkin, and Carlos Hernández.
- "Restricting Online Pornography and Violence Against Women: Evidence from the United States and India", with Riccardo Di Cato.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- "Political Messaging and Voter Learning: The Case of the WTO", with Renee Bowen, Lawrence Broz, Yung-Chun Chen, and Maria Titova.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

2024–2025	UC Alianza MX Short-Term Research in Mexico for UC Graduate Students
2021–2022	Regents Fellowship, University of California San Diego

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

2026	All CA Economic History Conference; SOCAE
2022	SOCAE
2019	ASSA/AEA Annual Meeting

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, graduate level: *University of California San Diego*: Evaluating Technological Innovation (2024); *Universidad de los Andes*: Empirical Industrial Organization (2018–2019).
Teaching Assistant, undergraduate level: *University of California San Diego*: Principles of Microeconomics (2022–2026), Microeconomics B (2024), Market Imperfections and Policy (2025–2026), Econometrics A (2022), Econometrics B (2023), International Economic Agreements (2024), The Indian Economy (2023), Principles of Macroeconomics (2022), Short Run Macroeconomics (2021); *Universidad de los Andes*: Introduction to Math for Economists (2020).
Student evaluations: 93% favorable ratings on UC San Diego's common evaluation form (summary).

SERVICE & MENTORING

2024–present **Co-host**, *Backstory: How Research Papers in Economics Get Made*, University of California San Diego [link]
2022–2026 **Mentor**, "comrades" program for new graduate students, Department of Economics
2024–2025 **Lab Leader**, Economic Research Lab, undergraduate research on sexual violence and political campaigning
2022–2024 **Co-organizer**, weekly graduate seminar, Department of Economics
2022–2024 **Department Representative**, Graduate and Professional Student Association
Referee, *Journal of Development Economics*

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

2025 **Research Assistant** for Samuel Bazzi
2024 **Research Assistant** for Renee Bowen
2023 **Research Assistant** for Sara Lowes
2017–2021 **Research Assistant** for Treb Allen, David Atkin, and Carlos Hernández
2019 **Research Assistant** for Rodrigo Mesa-Arango, Carlos Hernández, and Gordon Wilmsmeier

CONSULTING

2022–2023 **Regulation, Infrastructure & Transportation Consultant**, World Bank
Global Transport Flagship Report: Shrinking Economic Distance

- Assembled microdata on truck trips, freight rates, truck ownership, and road-network travel times (GIS), and estimated a spatial model of competition in road freight alongside reduced-form causal designs.
- Estimated the effects of road-freight regulations and infrastructure investments on transportation costs and competition.
- Simulated policy counterfactuals: 2015–2020 travel-time reductions raised trucker productivity by 27% and welfare by 3%.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Skills Stata, Python, R, MATLAB, GIS, Excel; web scraping, OCR, APIs (Google Trends, LLMs), LLM text extraction and classification (e.g., batch processing with the OpenAI API; converting encyclopedias into structured datasets), large administrative and text datasets
Languages Spanish (native); English (fluent); French (intermediate); Italian (basic)
Citizenship Colombian
Interests Sports, music, travel, history, plants

COMMUNITY SERVICE

2020 **Fundraiser & Volunteer**, Fundación Hermanos sin Condiciones, Colombia
Helped raise funds and organize construction of a water well serving 120 families without reliable access to water.
2013 **Mentor**, Fundación Con Las Manos, Colombia
Taught mathematics to primary-school students from underserved backgrounds.
2009–2012 **Local Coordinator**, Fundación Soñar Despierto, Colombia
Fundraising and development of local libraries, community restaurants, and activities for underserved families.