

# PAOLA UGALDE ARAYA

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Department of Economics  
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## EMPLOYMENT

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Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Louisiana State University, 2023-

## EDUCATION

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Ph.D. Economics, Arizona State University (2023)  
M.S. Economics, Arizona State University (2021)  
M.A. Economic Theory, ITAM (2017)  
B.A. Economics, University of Costa Rica (2013)

## RESEARCH FIELDS

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Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Gender Economics

## RESEARCH

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### Published Papers

“Gendered Effects of Labels on Advanced Course Enrollment” *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 2025  
“A (Dynamic) Investigation of Stereotypes, Belief-Updating, and Behavior” with Katherine Coffman and Basit Zafar, *Economic Inquiry*, 2024  
“The Impact of COVID-19 on Student Experiences and Expectations: Evidence from a Survey” with Esteban Aucejo, Jacob French, and Basit Zafar *Journal of Public Economics*, 2020

### Working Papers

“Political Views & College Choices in a Polarized America” with Riley Acton and Emily Cook  
“Gender Differences in Preferences for Grades and Major Choice” (*Reject and Resubmit JHR*)  
“Same Degree, Different Education: The Transition to a 12-Year Curriculum in Louisiana” with Scott Abrahams (*Submitted*)  
“Understanding Gaps in College Achievement” with Esteban Aucejo, Jacob French, and Basit Zafar (*Submitted*)

### Research in Progress

“The Role of Teacher Private Information in Predicting Student Test Scores” with Esteban Aucejo and Ilkem Gok Karci.  
“Gender Gap in Performance When Shaken and Stressed: Evidence from Korea’s College Scholastic Ability Test During Earthquakes” with Eunju Lee

## **ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

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2025: MidSouth Education Policy Workshop  
2024: University of Costa Rica  
2023: Louisiana State University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Ohio State University  
2022: Ph.D. Reunion Conference, Arizona State University  
2020: Workshop on Subjective Expectations

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 2000), LSU: Spring 2024- Fall 2025  
Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (ECON 4720), LSU: Fall 2023-2025  
Microeconomics Principles (ECN 212), ASU: Summer 2020 and 2021  
Principles of Economics (XE0156), UCR: Spring/Fall 2014, Spring 2015

## **AWARDS AND GRANTS**

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2025-2027: Spencer Foundation Research Grants on Education (Co-PI with Emily Cook and Riley Acton)  
2024: LSU Provost's Fund for Innovation in Research Grant  
2020-2021: Graduate Research and Support Program Grant  
2020: Best Written Comprehensive Exam (Third-year paper)  
2014: Graduation with Honors, B.A. Economics  
2013, 2010: Best Student, Economics Department  
March 2010 - December 2013: Academic Excellence Scholarship, B.A. Economics

## **REFEREE**

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*Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Education Economics, Economic Modeling, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Higher Education, Empirical Economics, International Review of Economics, Management Science, Economic Bulletin, Economic Journal, European Economic Review.*

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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**Gender:** Female  
**Citizenship:** Costa Rica  
**Languages:** English (fluent), Spanish (native)