

René Livas

CONTACT	Department of Economics, Finance, and Legal Studies The University of Alabama 361 Stadium Drive, Box 870224 • Tuscaloosa, AL 35487	rlivas@ua.edu https://renelivas.com/
EDUCATION	Harvard University Ph.D. Public Policy, Economics Track, 2026 Committee: Gordon Hanson (Chair), Ed Glaeser, Gabriel Kreindler Yale University M.A. International and Development Economics, 2019 Universidad Iberoamericana, Ciudad de México B.A. Economics (with Highest Honors), 2016 Stanford University Exchange student, 2014	
APPOINTMENT	The University of Alabama Assistant Professor of Economics and Real Estate, 2026-	
AFFILIATIONS	Visiting Scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2026- Doctoral Fellow, Reimagining the Economy Project, 2021-2026 Ph.D. Affiliate, Center for International Development / EPoD, 2021-2026	
WORKING PAPERS	Local Taxes and Suburbanization: Evidence from Philadelphia's Wage Tax with Matthew Jacob (link to paper) The Rise of the South and the Deindustrialization of the North with Gordon Hanson (link to paper) The Emergence of Public Transit and the Transformation of the American Downtown with Prottoy A. Akbar and Allison Shertzer (link to paper) Place-Based versus People-Based Policy Responses to Local Economic Distress with Gordon Hanson, Harry Holzer, and Dani Rodrik Automation Technologies and Employment at Risk: The Case of Mexico with A. Cebreros, A. Heffner, and D. Puggioni (Bank of Mexico WP 2020-04)	
AWARDS	2025 IPUMS Excellence in Research Award, Student Category UEA Prize for Best Student Paper (Honorable Mention), 2026 John Clapp Best Poster Award at the AREUEA/ASSA Conference, 2026 Premio en Economía Víctor L. Urquidí (Honorable Mention), 2020 Premio Ceneval al Desempeño de Excelencia EGEL en Economía, 2016 Universidad Iberoamericana, Reconocimiento a la Excelencia Académica, 2016	

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS	Harvard Griffin GSAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2025-2026 Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative Doctoral Fellowship (\$3,250), 2024-2025 Taubman Center for Local and State Government Fellowship (\$6,000), 2024 Harvard University Graduate Prize Fellowship, 2020 Brown University Presidential Fellowship (declined), 2020 Universidad Iberoamericana Academic Excellence Scholarship, 2012-2016
INVITED SEMINARS & CONFERENCES	2026: SEA 96th Annual Meeting (Clio/EHA; Urban/Spatial), American Real Estate Society, University of Pittsburgh, Build Philly Now Policy Lunch, Universidad Iberoamericana, 15th European Meeting of the UEA (Student Prize Session), Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Banco de México, The University of Alabama, AREUEA/ASSA Conference 2025: SEA 95th Annual Meeting (Clio/EHA), Harvard Kennedy School Economics and Social Policy Seminar, Harvard Economic History Workshop
SERVICE	Referee, <i>Journal of Urban Economics</i> (x4) Organizer, Economics Seminar, The University of Alabama, 2026- Vice-president, Harvard Kennedy School PhD Student Association (KPSA), 2023-2024 Dept. of Economics Technical Board, Universidad Iberoamericana, 2022-2026 Representative of the student body, Universidad Iberoamericana Senate, 2015-2016
TEACHING	<i>Principles of Real Estate</i>, The University of Alabama Instructor (Undergraduate level), Spring 2027 <i>Using Big Data to Solve Economic and Social Problems</i>, Harvard University Teaching Fellow for Raj Chetty (Undergraduate level), Spring 2023 and 2024 <i>Econometrics I</i>, Harvard University Teaching Fellow for Gregory Bruich (Ph.D. level), Fall 2022 and 2023 <i>Intermediate Microeconomics</i>, Universidad Iberoamericana Ciudad de México Instructor (Undergraduate level), Summer 2021 <i>International Trade I</i>, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) Instructor (Undergraduate level), Summer 2020
OTHER EMPLOYMENT	Independent Consultant (Pro Bono), Texas 16th Congressional District, 2026- Predoctoral Fellow for Simon Jäger, MIT Department of Economics, 2019-2020 Economic Analyst, Banco de México (InvEco), 2016-2018 Short Term Consultant, World Bank, 2016
OTHER	Languages: Proficient in English and Spanish Software: Stata, MATLAB, ArcGIS, Python, R, LaTeX Citizenship: Dual citizen of the U.S. and Mexico ORCID: 0009-0002-6106-4510 Last updated: 2026-09-23