

René Livas

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Education	<p>Harvard University Ph.D. Public Policy, Economics Track, 2026 Committee: Gordon Hanson (Chair), Ed Glaeser, Gabriel Kreindler</p> <p>Yale University M.A. International and Development Economics, 2019</p> <p>Universidad Iberoamericana, Ciudad de México B.A. Economics (with Highest Honors), 2016</p> <p>Stanford University Exchange student, 2014</p>	
Employment	<p>The University of Alabama Assistant Professor of Economics and Real Estate, 2026-</p>	
Affiliations	<p>Visiting Scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2026</p> <p>Doctoral Fellow, Reimagining the Economy Project, 2021-2026</p> <p>PhD Affiliate, Center for International Development / EPoD, 2021-2026</p>	
Working Papers	<p>Local Taxes and Suburbanization: Evidence from Philadelphia's Wage Tax with Matthew Jacob (link to paper)</p> <p>The Rise of the South and the Deindustrialization of the North with Gordon Hanson (link to paper)</p> <p>The Emergence of Public Transit and the Transformation of the American Downtown with Prottoy A. Akbar and Allison Shertzer (link to paper)</p> <p>Automation Technologies and Employment at Risk: The Case of Mexico with A. Cebreros, A. Heffner, and D. Puggioni (Bank of Mexico WP 2020-04)</p>	
Awards	<p>2025 IPUMS Excellence in Research Award, Student Category</p> <p>UEA Prize for Best Student Paper (Honorable Mention), 2026</p> <p>John Clapp Best Poster Award at the AREUEA/ASSA Conference, 2026</p> <p><i>Premio en Economía Víctor L. Urquidi</i> (Honorable Mention), 2020</p> <p><i>Premio Ceneval al Desempeño de Excelencia EGEL en Economía</i>, 2016</p> <p>Universidad Iberoamericana, <i>Reconocimiento a la Excelencia Académica</i>, 2016</p>	

Grants and Fellowships	<p>Harvard Griffin GSAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2025-2026</p> <p>Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative Doctoral Fellowship (\$3,250), 2024-2025</p> <p>Taubman Center for Local and State Government Fellowship (\$6,000), 2024</p> <p>Harvard University Graduate Prize Fellowship, 2020</p> <p>Brown University Presidential Fellowship (declined), 2020</p> <p>Universidad Iberoamericana Academic Excellence Scholarship, 2012-2016</p>
Invited Seminars & Conferences	<p>2026: SEA 96th Annual Meeting (Clio/EHA; Urban/Spatial), 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</p> <p>2025: SEA 95th Annual Meeting (Clio/EHA), Harvard Kennedy School Economics and Social Policy Seminar, Harvard Economic History Workshop</p> <p>2018: Congreso Sobre México</p>
Service	<p>Referee, <i>Journal of Urban Economics</i> (x3)</p> <p>Vice-president, Kennedy PhD Student Association (KPSA), 2023-2024</p> <p>Dept. of Economics Technical Board, Universidad Iberoamericana, 2022-2026</p> <p>Representative of the student body, Universidad Iberoamericana Senate, 2015-2016</p>
Teaching	<p><i>Using Big Data to Solve Economic and Social Problems</i>, Harvard University Teaching Fellow (Undergraduate level), Raj Chetty, Spring 2023 and 2024</p> <p><i>Econometrics I</i>, Harvard University Teaching Fellow (Ph.D. level), Gregory Bruich, Fall 2022 and 2023</p> <p><i>Intermediate Microeconomics</i>, Universidad Iberoamericana Ciudad de México Instructor (Undergraduate level), Summer 2021</p> <p><i>International Trade I</i>, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) Instructor (Undergraduate level), Summer 2020</p>
Other Employment	<p>Economic Consultant, Texas 16th Congressional District, 2026</p> <p>Predocctoral Fellow, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2019-2020</p> <p>Economic Analyst, Banco de México (DGIE), 2016-2018</p> <p>Short Term Consultant, World Bank, 2016</p>
Other	<p>Languages: Proficient in English and Spanish</p> <p>Software: Stata, MATLAB, ArcGIS, Python, R, LaTeX</p> <p>Citizenship: Dual citizen of the U.S. and Mexico</p> <p>Last updated: 2026-07-04</p>