

Curriculum Vitae

Flávio Cunha
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Education:

June/2007 – PhD (Economics) at the University of Chicago, Chicago, USA.
June/2000 – M.Sc. (Economics) at Fundação Getúlio Vargas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
February/1995 – BA (Economics) at Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

Employment:

July/2014 – Associate Professor, Rice University
July/2008 – June/2014 - Assistant Professor, University of Pennsylvania
July/2007 – June/2008 - Lecturer, University of Pennsylvania

Published and Forthcoming Papers:

- **Early Life Height and Weight Production Functions with Endogenous Energy and Protein Inputs**, (with Jere Behrman, Linda Adair, Judith Borja, John Hoddinott, John Maluccio, Reynaldo Martorell, Esteban Puentes, Aryeh Stein, and Fan Wang), Vol. 22(2), pp. 65–81, September/2016, *Economics and Biology*.
- **Decomposing Trends in Inequality in Earnings into Forecastable and Uncertain Components**, (with James Heckman), Vol. 34(S2), pp. 31-65, April/2016, *Journal of Labor Economics*.
- **Subjective Rationality, Parenting Styles, and Investments in Children**. In P. Amato, A. Booth, S. McHale, & J. Van Hook (Eds.), *Diverging destinies: Families in an era of increasing inequality*, Chapter 2, pp. 45-55, 2014, New York: Springer.
- **Returns to Skills and the College Premium**, *Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking*, Vol 43(IS1), pp. 39-86, 2011, (with Fatih Karahan and Ilton Soares).
- **Recent Developments in the Estimation of Production Functions of Skills**, *Fiscal Studies*, Vol. 32(2), pp. 297-316, June/2011.
- **Estimating the Elasticity of Intertemporal Substitution in the Formation of Cognitive and Non-Cognitive Skills**, *Econometrica*, Vol. 78(3), pp. 883-931, May/2010, (with James Heckman and Susanne Schennach).
- **Human Capital Formation in Childhood and Adolescence**, *CESifo Journal for Institutional Comparisons*, Vol. 7(4), pp. 22-28, Winter/2009, (with James Heckman).
- **Crossing the Finish Line: A Review Article**, *Journal of Human Capital*, Vol. 3(4), pp. 354-378, Winter/2009.
- **Investing in our Young People**, in A. Reynolds, ed., *Cost-Effective Early Childhood Programs in the First Decade: A Human Capital Integration*, Chapter 18, pp. 381-414, 2010, New York: Cambridge University Press, (with James Heckman).
- **Early Childhood Education and its Importance in Reducing Violence**, in F. Giambiagi, R. Henriques, S. Pessoa, and F. Velloso, eds., *Educação Básica no Brasil: Construindo um Futuro Melhor*, Chapter 5, pp. 95-116, 2009, Rio de Janeiro: Elsevier, (in Portuguese, with Aloisio Araujo, James Heckman, and Rodrigo Moura).
- **The Economics and Psychology of Inequality and Human Development**, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, Vol. 7(2-3), pp. 1-48, April/May 2009, (with James Heckman).
- **Formulating, Identifying, and Estimating the Technology for the Formation of Skills**, *Journal of Human Resources*, Vol. 43(4), pp. 738-782, Fall/2008, (with James Heckman).
- **A Framework for the Analysis of Inequality**, *Macroeconomic Dynamics*, Vol. 12(S2), pp. 315-354, September/2008 (with James Heckman).

- **Identifying and Estimating the Distributions of Ex Post and Ex Ante Returns to Schooling: A Survey of Recent Developments**, *Labour Economics*, Vol. 14(6), pp. 870-893, December/2007, (with James Heckman)
- **The Identification and Economic Content of Ordered Choice Models with Stochastic Cutoffs**, *International Economic Review*, Vol. 48(4), pp. 1273-1309, November/2007, (with James Heckman and Salvador Navarro).
- **The Technology of Skill Formation**, *American Economic Review P&P*, Vol. 97(2), pp. 31-47, May/2007, (with James Heckman).
- **Interpreting the Evidence on Life Cycle Skill Formation**, in E. Hanushek and F. Welch, eds., *The Handbook of Economics of Education*, Chapter 12, pp. 697-812; 2006, Amsterdam: North Holland, (with James Heckman, Lance Lochner and Dimitryi Masterov).
- **Counterfactual Analysis of Inequality and Social Mobility**, in G. Fields, D. Grusky and S. Morgan eds., *Mobility and Inequality: Frontiers of Research from Sociology and Economics*, Chapter 4, pp. 290-346; 2006, Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, (with James Heckman and Salvador Navarro).
- **Separating Uncertainty from Heterogeneity in Life Cycle Earnings**, *Oxford Economic Papers*, Vol. 57(2), pp. 191-261, April/2005 (with James Heckman and Salvador Navarro).

Working Papers:

- **Gaps in Early Investments in Children**, resubmitted, *Journal of Political Economy*.
- **Eliciting Maternal Beliefs about the Technology of Skill Formation**, resubmitted, *American Economic Review*, (with Jennifer Culhane and Irma Elo).
- **Child Endowments, Parental Investments, and the Development of Human Capital**, (with Anna Aizer), revise and resubmit, *Journal of Political Economy*.
- **Investments in Children When Markets Are Incomplete**, revise and resubmit, *Review of Economic Studies*.
- **You Are What Your Parents Think: Height and Local Reference Points**, (with Jere Behrman, Esteban Puentes, and Fan Wang), submitted.
- **Parental Beliefs and Investments in Human Capital** (with Orazio Attanasio and Pamela Jervis), submitted.
- **Measuring Investments in the Human Capital of Children**

Ongoing Projects:

- **Philadelphia Human Development Study:** The goal of the study is to assess prior maternal beliefs about the technology of skill formation. By prior beliefs, we mean that these beliefs are collected during the mother's first pregnancy); investigate if these beliefs predict maternal investments; and document how learning about child development affects the evolution of these beliefs (Role: Principal Investigator. Co-investigators: Irma Elo at the University of Pennsylvania, Jennifer Culhane and Marsha Gerdes at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia).
- **PADIN Study:** Evaluation of a large-scale home visitation program in rural villages in the state of Ceara, Brazil (Role: Co-Investigator; Principal Investigator: Rita Almeida at the World Bank).
- **JumpStart Study:** Evaluation of a low-cost parenting education program developed by the Alief Independent School District in Houston area (Role: Co-Principal Investigator with Ken Wolpin).
- **Food Scholarship Study:** Evaluation of a program that provides students enrolled in institutions of higher education in the Houston area with a food scholarship that is worth approximately \$60 per credit. The institutions are the University of Houston – Downtown, San Jacinto Community College, and Lone Star Community College (Role: Co-Principal Investigator with Ken Wolpin).
- **WIC Study:** Design, implement, and evaluate a parenting program focused on the population of pregnant and mothers served by WIC offices in Houston.
- **Evaluation of LENA Start Program:** Evaluation of a Parenting Program that focuses on providing information and measurement of the language environment of young children.

Doctoral Advising:

Thesis Advisor of:

Fan Wang (University of Pennsylvania)

Nick Frazier.

Zoe Pham.
Nigel Soria.

Thesis Committee Member of:

Diego Amador Osuna, (2015). Universidad de los Andes, Colombia.
Eun-Young Shim (2014). UC San Diego (Post-Doc).
Lingwen Huang (2014). USC Marshall School of Business (Adjunct Professor)
Nicolas Grau (2014). Universidad of Chile.
Pilar Alcade (2013). Universidad de los Andes, Chile.
Fatih Karahan (2012). Federal Reserve Bank of New York.
Karam Kang (2012). Carnegie Mellon University.
Drew Griffen (2012). First job: University of Tokyo.
David Mann-Podrasky (2011). First job: Mathematica.
Ellie Harvil (2011). First job: Abt Associates.
Marco Cosconati (2009). First job: Interamerican-Development Bank.

Awards:

August/2014: Frisch Medal Award for “Estimating the Elasticity of Intertemporal Substitution in the Formation of Cognitive and Non-cognitive Skills”, *Econometrica*, 78(3), 883-931, jointly authored with James Heckman and Susanne Schennach. The Frisch Medal is awarded by the Econometric Society to encourage the creation of good applied work and its submission to *Econometrica*. It is given every two years for an applied article (empirical or theoretical) published in *Econometrica* during the past five years.
April/2010: Kravis Award for Distinction in Undergraduate Teaching.

Grants and Fellowships:

October/2017: Hurricane Harvey Child-Focused Response: Road to Recovery: The Trinkka and Sam Early Childhood Psychosocial Support Program, UNICEF USA, \$158,193
September/2017: An evidence-based parenting program targeting pregnant women or women with infants age 0-12 months in Houston WIC offices, Episcopal Health Foundation, \$465,410, PI: Quianta Moore
April/2016: Evaluation of the Alief Independent School District Jumpstart Program, Arnold Foundation, \$499,029, Co-PI with Kenneth I. Wolpin.
April/2016: Evaluation of the Food Scholarship Program at Lone Star College and San Jacinto College, Arnold Foundation, \$476,632, Co-PI with Kenneth I. Wolpin.
April/2013: Institute for Research on Poverty Grant for “What Job Characteristics do Mothers of Very Young Children Value the Most?” Total direct costs: \$17,000.00.
December/2012: NIH R01 Grant for the “Philadelphia Human Development Study”, Waves 1 to 3. Total direct costs \$2,332,803.00
October/2012: Grand Challenges Canada “Saving Brains” (PI: Jere Behrman). Total direct costs: \$881,709.00
December/2011: INET Project Grant for “Eliciting Maternal Beliefs about the Technology of Skill Formation.” Total direct costs: \$164,745.00
July/2011: NICHD-PARC Project Grant. Total direct costs: \$20,000.00
July/2008: NICHD-PSC Project Grant. Total direct costs: \$20,000.00
Sep/2005: The CED Fellowship for the study of Skill Formation.
Sep/2004: The Claudio Haddad Dissertation Fund at the University of Chicago.
Sep/2000: CAPES scholarship for PhD in economics at University of Chicago.

Other Activities:

July/2016-June/2020 – Member of NIH Social Sciences and Population Studies Study Section B.

Program Committee Member of the following conferences:

- XXIX Encontro Brasileiro de Econometria; Recife, Brazil.
- 2008 Latin American Meetings of the Econometric Society; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 2009 Meetings of the Society for Economic Dynamics; Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2010 Meetings of the Society for Economic Dynamics; Montreal, Canada.
- 2010 Meetings of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association; Medellin, Colombia.

- 2011 Meetings of the Society for Economic Dynamics; Ghent, Belgium.
- 2012 Meetings of the Society for Economic Dynamics; Limassol, Cyprus.
- 2013 Meetings of the Society for Economic Dynamics; Seoul, South Korea.
- 2014 Latin American Meetings of the Econometric Society; Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- 2016 North American Summer Meetings of the Econometric Society; Philadelphia, PA.

Co-Organizer:

- Meeting on Early Childhood Education: An Integrated Approach: Economics, Education, and the Neurosciences, December/2009; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Co-Organizer: Meeting on Family Economics and Human Capital in the Family, June 2012, Bank of Italy, Rome.
- Meeting on Family and Inequality, November 2012, University of Chicago, Chicago.
- MOVE-FINet-CEAR Workshop on Family Economics, June 2013, Barcelona, Spain.
- FINet-CEAR-IFS Conference on Family Economics and Risk; June 2014; London, UK.
- MOVE-FINet-CEAR Workshop on Family Economics, June 2015, Barcelona, Spain.
- Meeting on Family and Inequality, October 2016, University of Chicago, Chicago.

Referee:

American Economic Review, Econometrica, Economics Letters, European Economic Review, International Economic Review, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Literature, Journal of Economic Theory, Journal of European Economic Association, Journal of Human Capital, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Public Economics, Labour Economics, Macroeconomic Dynamics, National Science Foundation, Oxford Economic Papers, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Review of Economics and Statistics, Spencer Foundation.

Teaching Experience:

Undergraduate Price Theory, Economics Department, University of Chicago.

Undergraduate Econometrics, Economics Department, University of Pennsylvania.

Undergraduate Development Economics, Economics Department, University of Pennsylvania.

Undergraduate Economics of Human Capital, Rice University.

Graduate Micro-Econometrics, Economics Department, University of Pennsylvania.

Graduate Labor Economics, Economics Department, Rice University.

Professional Affiliations:

Co-Director, Early Childhood Interventions Working Group, Human Capital and Economic Opportunity

Co-Director, Family Inequality Working Group, Human Capital and Economic Opportunity.

Faculty Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research.

Research Associate, Population Studies Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

Research Affiliate, Center for Economics of Human Development, University of Chicago.

Editorial Service:

July/2014 – Journal of Human Capital