

Jeancarlo Vélez Lebrón

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Areas of Research: Development Economics, Economic History, Spatial Economics.

EDUCATION

University of Toronto Toronto, ON
Ph.D. in Economics Sep. 2022 – Present

Fields: Development Economics, Economic History

University of Puerto Rico San Juan, PR
M.A. in Economics 2021

Thesis: “China’s Evolving Role in Asian Trade: A Network Approach”

Cornell University Ithaca, NY
B.S. in Chemical Engineering 2012 – 2017

RESEARCH

Sugar Rush: The Effect of Foreign Direct Investment in Colonial Puerto Rico (1898–1952)

Job Market Paper

Improving and Sustaining Management Practices in Public Schools: Evidence from Puerto Rico
with Gustavo Bobonis, Marco González-Navarro, and Daniela Scur

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Canadian Economic Association (2026, scheduled)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Prof. Gustavo Bobonis (University of Toronto) 2019 – 2022

Management RCT in Puerto Rico public schools; ATEMA (computer-assisted learning with Khan Academy in PR)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Toronto, Teaching Assistant Toronto, ON

- ECO324: Economic Development Fall 2025
- ECO364: International Trade Fall 2024, Winter 2026
- ECO421: Special Topics in Economics and Trade Policy Fall 2025

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- University of Toronto Fellowship 2022 – Present
- Department of Economics Graduate Program Award, University of Toronto 2022, 2024, 2025
- Faculty of Arts and Science Program-level Fellowship, University of Toronto 2022, 2023
- Best Graduate Student Award, Department of Economics, University of Puerto Rico 2021
- Beca Creemos Contigo, Senate of Puerto Rico 2018
- Engineering Leadership Certificate, Cornell University 2016

SERVICE

President, Graduate Economics Union (GEU), University of Toronto 2025 – Present

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming: R, Stata, Python, GIS, \LaTeX

Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent)