

Marcela Mello

marcelamello.com

marcela_mello_silva@brown.edu

BROWN UNIVERSITY

Placement Director: Toru Kitagawa toru.kitagawa@brown.edu 401-863-3688
Graduate Administrator: Angelica Spertini angelica_spertini@brown.edu 401-863-2465

Office Contact Information

Department of Economics, Box B
Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island 02912
phone: +1 (202) 629 7395

References

Professor **Andrew Foster**
Department of Economics
Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island 02912
andrew_foster@brown.edu

Professor **Bryce Steinberg**
Department of Economics
Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island 02912
bryce.steinberg@brown.edu

Professor **Peter Hull**
Department of Economics
Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island 02912
peter_hull@brown.edu

EDUCATION

Brown University Ph.D. Candidate in Economics Expected Completion Date: May 2024	Providence, RI, USA 2018 –present
Sao Paulo School of Economics (EESP-FGV) M.A. Economics	Sao Paulo, Brazil 2014 –2016
University of Sao Paulo B.A. Economics	Sao Paulo, Brazil 2008 –2013

JOB MARKET PAPER

Religious Media, Conversion and its Socioeconomic Consequences: The Rise of Pentecostals in Brazil (with Giulia Buccione)

Presented at: NEUDC 2023, Summer Meeting Econometric Society 2023 (Los Angeles), European Economic Society 2023 (Barcelona), RIGDE 2022, ASREC 2023 (Cambridge, MA), ASREC 2023 (Melbourne), ASREC 2022 (London), NEUDC 2021, LACEA 2021, SBE 2020

We study the socioeconomic consequences of adherence to the Pentecostal movement, using exposure to a church-affiliated TV channel as a source of quasi-random variation in religiosity. Our empirical strategy exploits the placement of transmitters prior to the channel being religiously affiliated. Results show that exposure to this TV channel leads to an increase of 1 p.p. (+30%) in the share of Pentecostals. This large change in religious adherence allows us to study its socioeconomic consequences. Consistent with the church's prescriptions, we find that places exposed to this TV channel had higher fertility rate (0.03 child per women on average), lower female labor force participation (0.9 p.p.), lower schooling for young women (1.4 p.p.), and more votes for Pentecostal candidates (0.29 p.p.). We find no effects for male labor force participation and schooling. In an event-study framework, we exploit the expansion of RecordTV over time to show that the effects are not driven by other expansion strategies of the church. We find that the increase in the number of Pentecostal churches occurred as a result of change in content, but did not predate it, ruling out reverse causality.

RESEARCH PAPERS

Free Childcare and the Motherhood Penalty: Evidence from São Paulo (with João Garcia and Rafael Latham-Proença)

Presented at: GeFam Seminar 2023, NEUDC 2022 (by co-author), LACEA 2022 (Bogota)

Congenital Disability Effects on Parents' Labor Supply: Evidence from the Zika Virus Outbreak (with João Garcia and Rafael Latham-Proença)

Religious Mayors and Sexual Education in Schools

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Population Studies and Training Center Fellowship, Brown University 2023-2024
- Merit Dissertation Fellowship - Brown University Spring 2023
- Merit Dissertation Fellowship - Brown University Spring 2022
- Third-Year Paper Distinction - Brown University 2019

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

Analysis Group Boston, MA
Intern Associate Summer 2022

Brown University, Economics Department Providence, RI
Research Assistant for Neil Thakral Spring 2021

World Bank, Development Impact Evaluation (DIME)
Research Assistant

Washington, DC
2017–2018

Interamerican Development Bank
Research Assistant

Washington, DC
2016–2017

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant at Brown University

- Health, Hunger and the Household in Developing Countries (*Professor: Andrew Foster*) Fall 2022
- Health, Hunger and the Household in Developing Countries (*Professor: Andrew Foster*) Fall 2021
- Health, Hunger and the Household in Developing Countries (*Professor: Andrew Foster*) Fall 2020
- Introduction to Game Theory (*Professor: Geoffroy De Clippel*) Spring 2020
- Health, Hunger and the Household in Developing Countries (*Professor: Andrew Foster*) Fall 2019

OTHER

- **Referee Service:** American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Urban Economics
- **Languages:** Portuguese (native), English and Spanish