Summary:

This project aims to analyze empirical issues that are relevant both in Applied Microeconomics and Empirical Finance. We will deal with the following issues:

1. Within the broad area of Applied Microeconomics, we propose to study:
1.1. Topics in Labor Economics, such as: the impact of wage stickiness on the size and the dynamics of the informal sector in a developing economy; the measurement of intergenerational mobility and, in particular, the development of a new approach to assess the degree of long-run intergenerational mobility that, instead of requiring information on previous generations, relies on horizontal" information, that is, information about individuals of the same generation, or very close generations; and the role played by saving decisions in determining labor market transitions.
1.2. Topics in Economics of Education, such as: the relationship between grades in midterm and final exams for university students and its potential variation by gender; the impact of a remedial education program on non-cognitive skills in Spain; and the effects of an early childhood development intervention on poor children's cognitive and socioemotional development in the Dominican Republic.
1.3. Topics in Health Economics, such as: the effects of a permanent aggressive family planning program (that included sterilizations without informed consent) on child mortality in Perú; the impact of cultural attitudes regarding gender equality on the gender gap in risky behaviors; and the relative important of various sources of the "trouble with boys", that is, the fact that boys perform worse than girls in many non-cognitive dimensions and are more prone to engaging in risky and disruptive behaviors.
2. Within the area of Empirical Finance, we intend to study the following topics: how outliers affect inference based on asymmetric GARCH models; the relationship between EU allowances and fuel prices; the estimation of performance measures of financial assets based on quantile-regression techniques; the comparison of risk-measures with flexible parametric assumptions; and the long-run joint dynamics of trading volume and volatility.