

Emma Aguila

RAND Corporation
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, University College London, UK, 2006.
MSc. Economics, University College London, UK, 2001.
B.A. Economics, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), Mexico.

EMPLOYMENT AND POSITIONS

Economist , RAND, Santa Monica, CA.	2009 - present
Director of the Center for Latin American Social Policy , RAND, Santa Monica, CA.	2008 - present
Director of Evaluation of Social Programs in the State of Yucatan at the office of the Governor of the State of Yucatan, Mexico.	2008 - present
Affiliated Researcher , Michigan Retirement Research Center	2008 - present
Professor of Economics , Pardee RAND Graduate School	2007 - present
Associate Economist , RAND, Santa Monica, CA.	2006 – 2009
Teaching Assistant , Department of Economics, University College London, UK.	2002-2006
Researcher , Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), UK.	2003-2004
Partner Consultant , Thesis Consultancy, Mexico.	1999-2000
Deputy Director , Econometric Models, Ministry of Energy, Mexico	1998-1999
Deputy Director , Pension and Health Systems Staff of the Minister of Finance, Mexico	1997-1998
Advisor , National Population Council, Mexico.	1997

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Economics of Aging; Labor Economics; Development Economics; Health Economics.

AWARDS, HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS

Gold Merit Award, RAND	2008
First Prize of the Inter-American Award for Research on Social Security 2007	2008
First Prize of the Award on Pensions 2005, CONSAR, AMAFORE, Mexico.	2005
Second Prize of the Inter-American Award for Research in Social Security 2002, Inter-American Conference for Social Security (ICSS).	2002
Second Prize of the Labor Research Contest 2001, Mexican Ministry of Labor and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB).	2001

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PUBLICATIONS

- Aguila, Emma. (2011) "Personal Retirement Accounts and Saving", American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, 3(4): 1-21
- Aguila, Emma, Orazio Attanasio, and Costas Meghir, (2011) "Changes in Consumption at Retirement: Evidence from Panel Data", Review of Economics and Statistics, 93(3): 1094-1099

- Working Papers

- Aguila, Emma (2012), Male Labor Force Participation and Social Security in Mexico. RAND Corporation, Working Paper, WR910. (*revise resubmit at the Journal of Pension Economics and Finance*)
- Aguila, Emma, Jose Escarce, Mei Leng, and Leo Morales (2012). "Health Status and Behavioral Risk Factors in Older Adult Mexicans and Mexican Immigrants to the U.S.", mimeo, RAND Corporation, Santa Monica.
- Aguila Emma, Arie Kapteyn, Rosalba Robles, and Beverly A. Weidmer (2011), "Experimental Analysis of the Health and Well-being Effects of a Non-contributory Social Security Program", RAND, WP-903.
- Aguila, Emma and Julie Zissimopoulos, (2011) "Going Home: The Retirement of Mexicans Returning from the U.S.", mimeo, RAND Corporation, Santa Monica.
- Aguila Emma, Orazio Attanasio, and Ximena Quintanilla (2010), "Cobertura del Sistema Privado de Capitalización en Chile, Colombia y México", RAND, WR-642.
- Aguila Emma, Michael Hurd and Susann Rohwedder (2008), "Pension Reform in Mexico: The Evolution of Pension Fund Management Fees and their Effect on Pension Balances", MRRC, Working Paper UM08-16.
- Aguila Emma, Julie Zissimopoulos (2008), "Labor Market and Immigration Behavior of Middle-aged and Elderly Mexicans" with Julie Zissimopoulos, MRRC Working Paper UM08-14.

- Peer-Reviewed Reports and Books

- Aguila Emma, Arie Kapteyn, Rosalba Robles, Oscar Vargas and Beverly Weidmer (2012), "A Non-Contributory Pension Program for Older Persons in Yucatan, Mexico: Establishing the Program and Evaluating its Impact", RAND-TR. *Forthcoming*
- Aguila Emma (2012), "Envejecer en México: Condiciones de Vida y Salud", with Ashley Pierson, Journal: Salud Pública de Mexico, Mexican National Institute of Public Health. INSP. *Forthcoming*
- Aguila Emma, Alisher R. Akhmedjonov, Ricardo Basurto-Davila, Krishna B. Kumar, Sarah Kups and Howard J. Shatz (2012), "United States and Mexico. Ties That Bind, Issues That Divide". RAND-MG. *Forthcoming*

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- Aguila Emma, Claudia Diaz, Mary Manqing Fu, Arie Kapteyn and Ashley Pierson (2012), "Living Longer in Mexico: Income Security and Health", RAND Health Quarterly, 2012; 1(4):1
- Aguila, Emma, Claudia Diaz, Mary Manqin Fu, Arie Kapteyn and Ashley Pierson (2011). "Envejecer en México: Condiciones de Vida y Salud", RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, CA. Available at: <http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG1179z3>.
- Aguila, Emma, Claudia Diaz, Mary Manqin Fu, Arie Kapteyn and Ashley Pierson (2011). "Living Longer in Mexico: Income Security and Health". Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation. Available at: <http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG1179>.

SCHOLARSHIPS

C2S Summer Biomarker Institute, Northwestern University.	2010
National Institute of Aging Summer Institute.	2008
Summer Institute, Integrating Biomarkers, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.	2008
Doctoral Scholarship, CONACYT, Mexico.	2001-2006
British Chevening Scholarship, British Council, UK.	2000-2001

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

Conference Age and Ageing: Just the Concern of the Old? December 2005, London, UK, sponsors: Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Age Concern and Goodenough College.

Conference States Pension Systems in Mexico, June 1998, Mexico City, Mexico, sponsor: the World Bank.

Conference Nine Challenges of the Pension Reforms, December 1997, Oaxaca, Mexico, sponsors: Mexican Ministry of Finance and the World Bank.

CONFERENCES PRESENTATIONS

Presentation of the book: "Envejecer en México: Condiciones de Vida y Salud", Leon Guanajuato, México, February 2012.

Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association Annual Meeting 2011, LACEA LAMES-2011, Santiago, Chile, November 2011.

Conference Healthcare and Socio-Economic Development in Latin America, Santiago, Chile, November 2011.

Presentation of the book: "Living Longer in Mexico: Income Security and Health", Washington, D.C., October 2011

Mind the Gap: From Evidence to Policy Impact, Cuernavaca, Mexico, June 2011.

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Royal Economic Society Annual Conference 2011, London, UK, April 2011
American Economic Association Annual Meeting 2011, Denver, Colorado, January 2011.
Econometric Society World Congress 2010, Shanghai, China, August 2010.
American Economic Association Annual Meeting 2010, Atlanta, Georgia, January 2010.
Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Society of Labor Economists, Chicago, US, May 2007.
III Fórum Nacional de Seguro de Vida e Previdência e Previdencia Privada, São Paulo, Brazil, August 2006.
XXX Annual Meeting of the Spanish Economic Association, Murcia, Spain, December 2005.
7th RTN Workshop on Economics of Ageing, Venice International University, Venice, Italy, October 2005.
The Final Conference of the RTN Project on Financing Retirement in Europe: Public Sector Reform and Financial Market Development, London School of Economics, London, UK, September 2005.
The 2nd Leicester PhD Conference in Economics, University of Leicester, Leicester, UK, May 2005.
Royal Economic Society Annual Conference 2005, The University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK, March 2005.
ENTER Jamboree 2005, ECARES, Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Brussels, Belgium, January 2005.
Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) Annual Meeting 2004, San José, Costa Rica, November 2004.
ENTER Jamboree 2004, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain, January 2004.
Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies (CIESS), Mexico City, Mexico, July 2002.
CIESS, Mexico City, Mexico, June 2000.

SEMINARS

- 2011 Seminar at the Population Studies Center (PSC) at the Institute for Social Research (ISR), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. Mexican Health and Aging Study, MHAS-II Workshop, Mexico City, Mexico. RAND Annual Board Meeting 2011, Santa Monica, California, November 2011. Seminar at The Pensions Supervisor (Superintendencia de Pensiones), Government of Chile, Santiago, Chile.
- 2010 RAND Labor and Population, Santa Monica, CA; NBER Summer Institute, Boston, MA; USC Development Seminar, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2009 MRRC Research Workshop, Institute for Social Research, Ann Arbor, Michigan; World Bank Social Protection Seminar, Washington D.C.; Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR) 2009 Annual Investigators Meeting, University of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama. CARSO Health Institute Seminar, Mexico City, Mexico. Seminar Government of the State of Yucatan, Merida, Mexico. RAND Seminar Labor and Population, Santa Monica, California. Mexican Census Bureau Seminar, INEGI, Aguascalientes, Mexico.
- 2008 UCLA-CHIME Workshop, Los Angeles; MRRC Research Workshop, Institute for Social Research, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- 2007 MRRC Research Workshop, Institute for Social Research, Ann Arbor, Michigan; UCLA-CHIME Workshop, Los Angeles.

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- 2006 Research Department, Inter-American Development Bank, Washington D.C., US; School of Public Affairs, Arizona State University, Phoenix, US; Public Policy Institute of California, San Francisco, US; RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, US; Department of Economics, Queen Mary University of London, London, UK; Department of Economics, Stockholm School of Economics, Stockholm, Sweden; UFAE, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain; Nuffield College, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK; Abt Associates, Boston, US.
- 2005 Mexican Central Bank Seminar, Mexico City, Mexico; Department of Economics, University College London, London, UK;
- 2003 Private Pensions Seminar, Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), London, UK; PhD Transfer Seminar, University College London, London, UK.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Referee: American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Population Economics, Fiscal Studies, Well-being and Social Policy, Latin American Research Review, Journal of Economic Surveys, El Trimestre Económico, Economía Mexicana, Inter-American Award for Research on Social Security 2009, 3ie International Initiative for Impact Evaluation.

Membership: American Economic Association (AEA), Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA), The Econometric Society, The Royal Economic Society (RES), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM).

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING

Dissertation Committee Member, Ricardo Basurto, Ph.D. in Policy Analysis, Pardee RAND Graduate School, 2009.

Dissertation Committee Member, Jeffery C. Tanner, Ph.D. in Policy Analysis, Pardee RAND Graduate School, current.

Dissertation Committee Member, Claudia Diaz, Ph.D. in Policy Analysis, Pardee RAND Graduate School, current.

Dissertation Committee Member, Sarah Kups, Ph.D. in Policy Analysis, Pardee RAND Graduate School, current.

GRANTS

R01 (Kapteyn, Aguila) 08/01/10-07/31/15

National Institute on Aging

Experimental Design of a Social Security System

The project will design, implement, and evaluate a Social Security program in the state of Yucatan, Mexico with a randomized control trial methodology. The Social Security program will be phased in over a three year period, allowing for the choice of treatment and control groups and baseline and follow-up measurements. The proposed program will include both a monthly cash transfer and a health component.

Role: Co-PI

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- P01 (Kapteyn, Aguila) 07/1/10-2/01/15
International Comparisons of Well-Being, Health, and Retirement
National Institute on Aging
Experimental Design of a Social Security System
The relation between financial resources and the health of individuals is a key policy concern. The experimental introduction of a non-contributory social security program provides a unique opportunity to better understand this relation and to gauge the effectiveness of policy in improving the health of the elderly. This research project will focus on analyzing the effects of the intervention on health, health care utilization, financial and in-kind transfers, and household risk management strategies and consumption smoothing.
Role: Co-PI
- P30 YR 16 OF 20 (Aguila) 02/1/10-2/01/11
National Institute on Aging
Assessing and Designing an Anemia Intervention for the Elderly
This study proposes to do the design and program evaluation of the effects of a non-contributory social security program in the State of Yucatan, Mexico on anemia. We will assess hemoglobin levels prior to receiving the pension and after they have received it, both for the treatment and control groups. We will also design an intervention to provide referrals for health treatment to anemic subjects.
Role: PI
- AARP-Fox Center (Aguila) 11/1/08-12/08/10
Aging and Well Being in Mexico and Latin America
This study will provide an understanding of the factors that affect material well-being for persons 50 years old or over and to suggest actions in terms of social security coverage, supply of health insurance, savings and pension products, among others. We will analyze living arrangements, wealth and sources of income during retirement, the relationship between health and wealth, saving patterns, regional disparities, and composition of household expenditure by level of household income before and after retirement.
Role: PI
- R21 National Institute of Aging (Kapteyn, Aguila) 10/29/08-01/31/11
Design and Evaluation of a Social Security Program for the Oldest Old
A research study that aims to inform the optimal design of the new social security program and that evaluates its effects on the health and well-being of the elderly recipients.
Role: Co-PI
- State of Yucatan 5-20-2008 (Aguila) 5/20/08-6/30/12
Government of the State of Yucatan, Mexico
Design of Non-contributory Pension Program in the State of Yucatan, Mexico
The aim of this study is to design and implement a non-contributory pension program in the State of Yucatan, Mexico for individuals 70 years old or above in localities of more than 20,000 inhabitants. In 2008, the population in the State of Yucatan of individuals 70 years old or more is 60,000. This program is oriented to improve the well-being of elderly.
Role: PI

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R21AG030170 (Rendall) 8/1/07-7/31/10

National Institute on Aging

Immigration, Emigration and Age-by-Country Structure of Mexican Cohort Lifetimes

This study explores the joint use of US and Mexican 1990 and 2000 census data in a multi-region population projection model to better understand the effects of migration of the Mexican-born population between Mexico and the US. Return migration to Mexico is analyzed for its effects on both reducing the size of the aged population in the US and changing its composition through selection based especially on education and health.

Role: Investigator

1557GJC242 (Aguila) 9/30/07-6/30/10

UCLA, Subcontract

NIA primary, P30AG021604 (Mangione)

Immigrant Selection on Health Behaviors and Chronic Diseases as an Explanation for the Hispanic Health Advantage: Evidence from Older Mexicans in the United States and Mexico

The aim of this study is to examine selective migration in and out of the U.S. as potential explanations for the Hispanic health paradox using data collected from older Mexicans living in the U.S. and in Mexico.

Role: PI

R24HD050906 (Rendall) 7/27/05 - 5/31/10

Seed Grant RAND Population Center

National Institute of Child Health & Development

Evolution of the composition of return migrants US-Mexico

This study will analyze the change in the composition and selection of the flow of return migrants US-Mexico from 1993 to 2004 using the EMIF. The EMIF is a unique source of information to examine the characteristics of immigrants that cross through the Mexican border to the US and return to Mexico by legal status in the US, and place of origin. This data set has been little exploited as most literature concentrate on surveys that provide information on the stock of immigrants. Besides, this analysis contributes to the current debate on migrant selection by examining return migration that has been studied in less depth by the empirical literature. This study will shed light on the characteristics of return migrants during the 90's and beginning of the XXI Century and test the Borjas and Bratsberg (1996) positive selection return migration hypothesis.

Role: PI

Grants Completed

5 P30 AG012815 (Aguila) 7/1/07-6/30/08

National Institute on Aging

Designing a Basic Social Security System in the State of Yucatan

This study proposes to do the design and program evaluation of a non-contributory social security program in the State of Yucatan, Mexico. This effort will cover only the early stages of the project, providing the first experimental design of the program, testing the paper and pencil questionnaire and in a second stage developing the computerized questionnaire.

Role: PI

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- UM08-16 (Aguila, Hurd and Rohwedder) 9/30/07-9/29/08
Michigan Retirement Center (MMRC)
Pension Reform in Mexico: The Effect of Personal Retirement Accounts on Preparation for Retirement
Study the effect of the Mexican pension reform, which introduced personal retirement accounts (PRAs) in 1997. Using social security administrative records we will simulate retirement benefits under the old pay-as-you-go system and under the new PRA system; compare how people will fare overall and study the distributional impact of the reform; and conduct sensitivity analyses with respect to rates of return and fund fees.
Role: PI
- UM08-14 (Aguila, Zissimopoulos) 9/29/07-9/29/08
Michigan Retirement Center (MRRC)
Labor market dynamics of middle-aged and elderly Mexicans
Examine labor market transitions of middle-aged and elderly Mexicans using a unique source of information, the Mexican Health and Aging Study (MHAS).
Role: PI
- 5-34425 (Aguila) 1/01/07 – 8/31/07
National Institute on Aging
Merging the Mexican Health and Aging Study with Social Security Administrative Records
Define an algorithm to merge the Mexican Health and Aging Study (MHAS) and the social security administrative records which provides a high quality outcome. Finish negotiations with Mexican officials to implement the merge of both data sets. Analyze the quality of the merge of the data sets.
Role: PI
- 5 P30 AG012815 -13 (Aguila) 8/01/06 –6/30/07
National Institute on Aging
Wealth and Sources of Income during Retirement in Mexico: Evidence of the MHAS and Social Security Administrative Records
The major goals of this project are to link the Mexican Health and Aging Study (MHAS) with the Mexican social security administrative records and exploit the richness of the data set to analyze wealth and sources of income during retirement.
Role: PI
- 1557GJC242 (Aguila) 9/29/07-6/30/07
National Institute on Aging (Subcontract from UCLA)
Immigrant Selection on Health Behaviors and Chronic Diseases as an Explanation for the Hispanic Health Advantage: Evidence from Older Mexicans in the United States and Mexico
The aim of this study is to examine selective migration in and out of the U.S. as potential explanations for the Hispanic health paradox using data collected from older Mexicans living in the U.S. and in Mexico.
Role: PI

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R24HD050906 (Aguila)

7/27/05 - 5/31/08

National Institute of Child Health & Development

Evolution of the composition of return migrants US-Mexico

This study will analyze the change in the composition and selection of the flow of return migrants US-Mexico from 1993 to 2004 using the EMIF. The EMIF is a unique source of information to examine the characteristics of immigrants that cross through the Mexican border to the US and return to Mexico by legal status in the US, and place of origin. This data set has been little exploited as most literature concentrate on surveys that provide information on the stock of immigrants. Besides, this analysis contributes to the current debate on migrant selection by examining return migration that has been studied in less depth by the empirical literature. This study will shed light on the characteristics of return migrants during the 90's and beginning of the XXI Century and test the Borjas and Bratsberg (1996) positive selection return migration hypothesis.

Role: PI

5 P30 AG012815 -13 (Aguila)

8/01/06–6/30/08

National Institute on Aging

Wealth and Sources of Income during Retirement in Mexico: Evidence of the MHAS and Social Security Administrative Records

The major goals of this project are to link the Mexican Health and Aging Study (MHAS) with the Mexican social security administrative records and exploit the richness of the data set to analyze wealth and sources of income during retirement.

Role: PI