

Alexandra L. Cermeño

Lund University, Sweden – Instituto Figuerola, Spain

✉ lopezcermeno@gmail.com, alexandra.lopez_cermeno@ekh.lu.se

🌐 alexandralcermeno.com • [in alexandralcermeno](#)

ORCID: 0000-0002-3552-8046

I am an Associate Senior Lecturer at the Department of Economic History in Lund University and a research affiliate at *Instituto Figuerola - Universidad Carlos III de Madrid*. I am a trained economist with a marked multidisciplinary profile at the edge of economic history and economic geography. My thesis analyzed the patterns of service employment concentration during the 20th century in the United States and outlined the determinants for those patterns. My broader research interests are related to the effects of place-based policies in the evolution of regional inequality over time and space, combining historical data and modern techniques such as Geographic Information Systems software and spatial econometrics. I am currently analyzing spatial trends of several aspects of society (namely economic activity, population, and gender inequality) and their persistence over time in the US, several European countries, and Africa.

Professional Experience

- **Associate Senior Lecturer - Department of Economic History** **Lund University**
Tenure track *September 2023– Currently*
- **Assistant Professor in Economics Department** **CUNEF University (Madrid)**
Tenure track *September 2022 – September 2023*
- **Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Economic History.** **Lund University**
Economic History Researcher. *September 2016 – September 2023*
- **Ph.D. student in Social Sciences Department.** **Universidad Carlos III de Madrid**
Researcher in training, Teaching Assistant of Economic History. *September 2012 – September 2016*

Career Breaks.....

- **Parental leave.** *October 2018 – August 2019*
- **Parental leave.** *October 2020 – August 2021*
Part time since May 2020.

Academic Qualifications

- **International Ph.D. in Economic History.** **Universidad Carlos III de Madrid**
'*Examining the Evolution of the Tertiary Sector: Economic Geography of Knowledge*'. *2012–2016*
Cum Laude distinction awarded.
- **MSc European and International Development.** **University of Glasgow**
'*Europe and the effects of integration: Solow vs. Core-periphery model*'. *2010–2011*
Graduated with *Merit* award.
- **Economics Degree (Licenciatura).** **Universidad Carlos III de Madrid**
Majored in Economics of European Integration. Average grade 7.2/10.0. *2005–2010*
Bilingual degree.

Research Grants.....

- **Proyectos de I+D+i, Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia.**
'Inequality, wellbeing, polarization and social mobility in Spain, 1750-1900.' 2021–2023
Investigator; PI: Fernando Ramos and Carlos Santiago, €24,000, (PID2020-117468GB).
- **Jan Wallander and Tom Hedelius Foundation program grant.**
'Building up faith: the relationship between church building and pre-industrial population.' 2020–2023
Principal Investigator. 1.8 million SEK = 175,000 euros, (P20-0037).
- **Knut and Alice Wallenbergs travel grant for contact trips outside Europe.**
1-month visit to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) - Media Lab, supervised 2018
by Cesar Hidalgo.
- **International Mobility grant Universidad Carlos III de Madrid.**
Funding a 3-month visit to London School of Economics (Economic History Department). 2015
- **Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia.**
Researcher in training scholarship. 2012–2016

Publications

Refereed International Journal Articles.....

- 'Stunting and wasting in a growing economy: biological living standards in Portugal during the twentieth century.' (2023) - with Nuno Palma and Renato Pistola. *Economics & Human Biology*.
Available at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2023.101267>
- 'Railways and Reform: How Trains Strengthened the Nation State.' (2021) - with Kerstin Enflo and Johannes Lindvall. *British Journal of Political Science*.
Available at <https://www.doi.org/10.1017/S0007123420000654>
- 'Can Kings Create Towns that Thrive?: The long-term implications of new town foundations' (2019) - with Kerstin Enflo. *Journal of Urban Economics*.
Available at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jue.2019.06.001>
- 'Do universities generate spatial spillovers? Evidence from US counties from 1930 to 2010.' (2018) - *Journal of Economic Geography*.
Available at <https://doi.org/10.1093/jeg/lby055>
- 'The driving forces of service localization during the twentieth century: evidence from the United States.' (2018) - *European Review of Economic History*.
Available at <https://doi.org/10.1093/ereh/hey011>

Working papers.....

- 'Closing the price gap: Von Thünen applied to wheat markets in 18th century Spain.' (2021) - with Carlos Santiago-Caballero. Available at [Centre for economic Institutions WP Series \(WP2023-1\) - Institute of Economic Research Hitotsubashi University](#).
- 'All roads lead to market integration. Spatial integration of grain markets in 18th century Spain.' (2018) - with Carlos Santiago-Caballero. *Under revision*.
Available at <https://e-archivo.uc3m.es/bitstream/handle/10016/30247/wh2002.pdf?sequence=1>

Other publications.....

- "Household behavior under rationing." with John Fitzgerald and Seán Kenny. *National Institute Economic Review* (2022): 1-21. Available at <https://doi.org/10.1017/nie.2022.19>
- 'Urban planning and town foundations.' - with Kerstin Enflo. *VOXEU column*.
Available at <https://voxeu.org/article/urban-planning-and-town-foundations>
- 'How market size drove the localisation of knowledge hubs.' *VOXEU column*.
Available at <https://voxeu.org/article/how-market-size-drove-localisation-knowledge-hubs-us>

- 'Service labour market: The engine of growth and inequality.' *VOXEU column*. Available at <http://www.voxeu.org/article/service-labour-market-engine-growth-and-inequality>

Work in progress

- 'The unexpected consequences of the Arsenal of Democracy. Long-run effects of military investments in USA counties.' - with Joan Roses (London School of Economics) and Alex Klein (Kent University).
- 'The stifling impact of ethnic-related issues on aid effectiveness: evidence from Christian missionary activities in Africa' (2023) - with Alessandra Quintigliano and Jacob Weisdorf (Sapienza).
- 'Female empowerment and economic growth. The case of Sweden 1870-1990.' - with Faustine Perrin, Tobias Karlsson (Lund University) and Joris Kok (University of Leiden).
- 'How women achieved economic growth in Rwanda.' - with Faustine Perrin (Lund University).
- 'A Historical Gender Gap Index for Sub-Saharan Africa Trends and insights from the past 50 years.' - with Faustine Perrin (Lund University).
- 'Building up faith: the relationship between church building and pre-industrial population' - with Kerstin Enflo (Lund University).

Participation in Conferences and Seminars

- **May 2023, Paris School of Economics seminar series, France** '*The long-run unintended consequences of the Arsenal of Democracy.*'
- **July 2022, World Economic History Congress.** Paris, France '*The long-run unintended consequences of the Arsenal of Democracy.*'
- **June 2022, European Historical Economics Society.** Groningen, Netherlands '*The long-run unintended consequences of the Arsenal of Democracy.*'
- **April 2022, Economic History Society.** Annual Conference, Cambridge '*The long-run unintended consequences of the Arsenal of Democracy.*'
- **January 2022, CUNEF University Research Seminar.** - Online. '*The multiplier of "destructive creation": a multisector spatial analysis of the investments for WW2 in the US.*'
- **December 2021, Agricliometrics IV.** - Online. '*Closing the price gap in the wheat market in eighteenth century Spain.*'
- **November 2021, University of Gothenburg Research Seminar.** - Online. '*The multiplier of "destructive creation": a multisector spatial analysis of the investments for WW2 in the US.*'
- **April 2021, Economic History Society.** Annual Conference, Warwick, UK - Online. '*All roads lead to market integration? Spatial integration of grain markets in 18th century Spain.*'
- **October 2019, Universitat de Barcelona Research Seminar.** Barcelona, Spain. '*Building up faith: the relationship between church building and pre-industrial population.*'
- **October 2019, Universitat de València Research Seminar.** Valencia, Spain. '*How and where did American dreamers succeed during the 20th century. Highly intensive knowledge shocks and spillovers.*'
- **October 2019, 14th North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association.** Federal Reserve of Philadelphia, USA. '*Can kings create towns that thrive? The long-run implications of a town foundation policy.*'
- **September 2019, Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture European Conference.** Lund University, Sweden. '*Building up faith: the relationship between church building and pre-industrial population.*'
- **August 2019, European Historical Economics Society.** Paris, France. '*Building up faith: the relationship between church building and pre-industrial population.*'
- **June 2019, 4th Sound for Seniors.** NTNU, Trondheim, Norway. '*Building up faith: the relationship between church building and pre-industrial population.*'

- **May 2019, IX Iberometrics conference.** Alcala de Henares University, Spain. *'Trading Health for Jobs. Biological consequences of rural-urban migration.'*
- **April 2019, Economic History Society Annual Conference.** Queens University, Belfast, Ireland. *'Building up faith: the relationship between church building and pre-industrial population.'*
- **September 2018, Economic History Seminar.** Lund University, Sweden. *'Building up faith: Lessons from catholic church building in Sweden 1000-1570.'*
- **September 2018, 13th Sound Economic History Workshop.** Gothenburg, Sweden. *'Railways and Reform: How Trains Strengthened the Nation State.'*
- **August 2018, World Economic History Congress.** Boston, USA *'Building up faith: Lessons from catholic church building in Sweden 1000-1570.'*
- **October 2017, 12th Swedish Economic History meeting.** University of Stockholm, Sweden. *'Can Kings Create Towns that Thrive?.'*
- **September 2017, 12th Sound Economic History Workshop.** University of Jyväskylä, Finland. *'Can Kings Create Towns that Thrive?'*
- **August 2017, Economic History European Society.** University of Tübingen, Germany. *'Can Kings Create Towns that Thrive?'*
- **July 2017, CAGE Summer School.** University of Warwick University, UK. *'A dynamic Von Thünen model, Sweden 1570-1810.'*
- **April 2017, Economic History Society Annual Conference.** Royal Holloway, United Kingdom. *'Universities, spillovers and the resilience of inequality in the human-capital century.'*
- **November 2016, 2nd Annual Meeting of Danish Historical Economics Society.** Copenhagen University, Denmark. *'Fail of Towns? Agricultural surplus and urbanisation. 1570-1810 in Sweden.'*
- **July 2016, Ph.D. Defense.** Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. *'Examining the Evolution of the Tertiary sector: Economic Geography of Knowledge.'*
- **November 2015, 10th SOUND Economic History Workshop.** Lund University, Sweden. *'Knowledge shocks and the resilience of regional inequality.'*
- **September 2015, Seminar at Ingenio Institute.** Valencia, CSIC and Universitat Politècnica de València. *'The ITC Revolution: long-term determinants of localisation.'*
- **September 2015, European Historical Economics Society Annual Conference.** University of Pisa, Italy. *'The ITC Revolution: long-term determinants of service sector employees localisation.'*
- **March 2015: Economic History Society, Annual Conference.** Birmingham, Telford Campus, UK. *'The ITC Revolution: long-term determinants of service sector employees localisation.'*
- **November 2014: Second Evolution of Networks, Industries and Clusters Workshop.** Halle, Germany. Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung Halle. *'A long-run analysis on the geographical concentration of service production. United States 1890-2010.'*
- **July 2013: VIII European Historical Economics Society Summer School.** Historical Economics Society and Instituto Figuerola. Getafe, Madrid. *'A snapshot on service localisation patterns: the service sector in the United States of America in 1980.'*

Other Qualifications or prizes

- **National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain (ANECA).**
6-year research quality period recognition, 2023. Registration Number 01494-01142046.
PhD Assistant lecturer positive evaluation, 2019. Registration Number 2019-8161.
- **Lund University.**
 - Doctoral Supervision. 2023-2024.
 - Teaching for higher education. 2018-2019.
 - Course design for higher education. 2021.

- **Universidad Autónoma de Madrid.**

Advanced Courses in Economics: *Microeconometrics: Discrete Choice and Panel Data Models*. May 2015.

Technical and Personal skills.....

- **Programming Languages:** Proficient in: STATA, \LaTeX . Advanced in: R.
- **Software Skills:** Proficient in: MS Office Package, ArcGIS.
- **Languages:** Spanish (Mother tongue), Catalan (bilingual), English (Fluent. TOEFL: 104), Swedish (basic).

Interests

- Economic History, Economic Geography, Spatial Inequality, Industrial Economics and Regional Development.
- Spatial Econometrics, Panel data econometrics.
- Map designing, GIS, Python.

Teaching experience

- Advanced Research Methods (UC3M - MEDEG Programme) - Master level (English), Autumn 2023.
- Business and Society (Lund University) - Undergraduate (English), Autumn 2023.
- Business History (CUNEF University) - Undergraduate (English), Autumn 2022.
- Current trends in development theory (Lund University) - Undergraduate (English) Spring 2018.
- Economic History (UC3M) - Undergraduate Students (Spanish and English). From 2012 to 2016.

Supervision & examination.....

- PhD thesis co-supervision of Jakob Hannerz (Lund University) with Jutta Bolt as a main supervisor.
- Master thesis supervision (Lund University). 2017 (3), 2018 (5), 2020 (3), 2023 (2).
- Master thesis examination (Lund University). 2021 (3), 2023 (4).

Other activities

- Member of the editorial board of the **Revista de Historia Industrial - Industrial History Review** - June 2021 - currently.
- Referee for **European Review of Economic History**: 2017, 2018 (2), 2019, 2020 (2), 2021; **Scandinavian Review of Economic History**: 2019; **Habitat International**: 2019, 2020; **Regional Studies**: 2019, 2020; **The Annals of Regional Science**: 2020; **The Journal of Economic History**: 2021, 2022 (2).
- Session organiser: 'Can policy offset poor resource endowments: measuring costs and benefits in the long-term?' – in the World Economic History Congress (Paris – 25-30 July 2022).
- Organization of 14th Sound Economic History Workshop and 4th Sound for Seniors. – Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim - July 2019.
- Organization of 13th Sound Economic History Workshop. – University of Gothenburg - September 2018.
- Blog creator and manager "**The great spurt**" for **Revista de Historia Industrial - Industrial History Review** <https://ihrthegreatspurt.wordpress.com/> - Jan 2022 - currently.