

AINA PUIG

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EDUCATION

American University

Aug. 2020 – (expected) 2025

Ph.D. in Economics, M.A. (2022) | Interests: Applied Macroeconomics, Public Finance, Monetary Economics

Relevant coursework: Macro. Analysis II, Empirical Macro., International Trade, Development Macro.

University of Pennsylvania

Jan. – May 2024

Visiting Fellow, Department of Economics

University of Maryland, College Park

Aug. 2015 – May 2019

Honors College | B.S. in Economics, Minors in International Development and Arabic

SKILLS

Programming: R, Python, SQL, Matlab, STATA, Julia, Fortran, Mathematica

Other software: Git, Linux, LATEX, Microsoft Office (i.e., Excel, Word)

Methods: Time series, Large datasets, Survey design & collection, Quantitative modelling, Dynamic programming

Languages: English (native), Spanish (native), Catalan (native), French (interm.), Arabic (interm.)

EXPERIENCE

American University, Economics Department

Washington, DC

Ph.D. Student

Aug. 2020 – Present

- Winner of best Econometrics Paper Competition in Department of Economics in 2025.
- Conducts independent economic research collecting new and existing data, conducting empirical and theoretical modeling causal analyses, visualizing data, and writing summary and papers [[w1](#), [w2](#), [w3](#), [w4](#)].
- Presented results at numerous seminars at universities, central banks, and international organizations.

Research Assistant, Institute for Macroeconomic & Policy Analysis

Jun. 2021 – Present

- Derived a productivity measure for pass-through sector businesses and estimated it for 19 industrial sectors, estimated firm use of various tax credits, compiled firm characteristics data, visualized results in STATA.
- Contributed to the optimization of quantitative model code in Julia that significantly reduced run-time.
- Leverages AI tools to streamline reports. Writes and publishes reports [[p1](#)], presents findings to professors.

Federal Reserve Board

Washington, DC

Dissertation Fellow, Division of Research & Statistics

Jun. – Sept. 2024

- Built life-cycle quantitative model in Matlab and presented results to economists in two 1-hour seminars.

Federal Reserve Board

Washington, DC

Graduate Economic Intern, Division of International Finance

May – Jul. 2023

- Optimized code for quantitative model with heterogeneous households and spatial analysis using CUDA Fortran software compiler for NVIDIA GPU-accelerated functionality.

International Monetary Fund

Washington, DC

Intern, Strategy, Policy & Review Department

Jun. – Sept. 2022

- Estimated the causal effects of monetary policy shocks on international labor markets using STATA.
- Contributed estimations to project of team of three senior Economists. Presented and published results [[p2](#)].

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

San Francisco, CA

Visiting Research Scholar

May – Jun. 2022

- Evaluated the effects of monetary policy shocks on consumption inequality by debt and demographics.
- Published Economic Letter [[p3](#)], presented results in 1-hr seminar, and collaborated with Economists.

American University, Economics Department

Washington, DC

Research Assistant, Professor Kelly Jones & Carework and the Economy

Jan. – May 2021, May – Aug. 2021

- Analyzed and visualized data in R and STATA. Mentored and trained two undergraduate assistants.
- Wrote reports and policy briefs. Assisted graduate course on applied macroeconomic modelling.

United Nations Department of Economic & Social Affairs

Intern, Financing for Sustainable Development Office

Washington, DC

Sept. – Dec 2021

- Provided economic research and program support by visualizing data and writing policy reports.

Global Communities

Associate, Financial Inclusion

Silver Spring, MD

Nov. 2019 – Aug. 2020

- Provided project management, research, and data analytics support to the head office managing seven subsidiary microfinance companies in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Eastern Europe.
- Supported global projects on developing the digital economy and financial inclusion for small enterprises.
- Coordinated the establishment of assessments, ethics trainings, and international board meetings.

University of Maryland, Gibran Chair for Values & Peace

Coordinator & Research Assistant, Women as Partners in Progress Project

College Park, MD

Oct. 2017 – Sept. 2019

- Led the quantitative research team promoting women's leadership and gender inclusive policies in MENA.
- Managed the creation of the Pioneers and Leaders Hub on Arab women and its published research.
- Coordinated a conference in Jordan deputized by the PM, with 200+ participants from 10 Arab countries.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

American University, Economics Department

Teaching Assistant, Ph.D. Macroeconomic Analysis & Intermediate Macro.

Washington, DC

Jan. – May 2022

- Held weekly office hours for each class of 20-30 students and graded homework.

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Macroeconomics

Aug. – Dec. 2020, Aug. – Dec. 2021

- Taught weekly review sessions for class of 30 students and graded homework and exams.

AWARDS

Grants: Barbara Bergmann Prize (\$2000); 5 travel grants (to Louisiana, Naples Italy, Boston, Texas)

Scholarships: Merit Graduate Fellowship (American University, Aug 2020-Present)

Awards: Unlocking Our Potential Essay Contest Winner (SF Federal Reserve Bank, 2022);

Multi-ethnic Academic Excellence Award (University of Maryland, Mar. 2016 – May 2019);

Outstanding Youth Achiever Award (United Nations Youth Assembly, 2016)

PRESENTATIONS & CERTIFICATES

Presentations: 6 at government institutions (Federal Reserve system, central banks); 6 at universities; 5 at academic conferences; 1 at international organizations (International Monetary Fund)

Certificates: Graduate Certificate on Gender Analysis in Economics (American U.); 3 graduate courses on macro modelling in Python, Matlab, STATA (Universitat de Barcelona, American U.); 2 on United Nations

PUBLICATIONS

[p1] Montecino, Juan, Mary Hansen, **Aina Puig**, and Ignacio González. (2025). "Raising Capital Gains Taxes Would Reduce Inequality Without Economic Costs." *Inequality.org*.

[p2] Flamini, Valentina, Diego B. P. Gomes, Bihong Huang, Lisa Kolovich, **Aina Puig**, and Aleksandra Zdzienicka. (2023). "Monetary Policy and Labor Market Gender Gaps." *IMF Working Paper No. 23/211*.

[p3] **Puig, Aina**. (2022). "The Unequal Effect of Interest Rates by Race, Gender." *Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Economic Letter 2022-19*.

WORKING PAPERS

[w1] **Puig, Aina**. "Racial Differences in the Marginal Propensity to Consume: New Survey Evidence and Theory."

[w2] **Puig, Aina**. "Monetary Policy Transmission to Consumption: Inequalities by Gender and Race."

[w3] **Puig, Aina**. "Consumer Responses to Fed Communications: Prior Beliefs, Consumption, Demographics."

[w4] Akin, Selin Secil, Sung Ah Bahk, Lidia Brun, Ignacio Gonzalez, and **Aina Puig**. "Unpaid Elderly Care Work and Women's Labor Force Participation: The Case of South Korea."