

**University of Puerto Rico
Mayagüez Campus
College of Arts and Sciences
DEPARTAMENT OF ECONOMICS**

Annual Report 2022-2023

Submitted by:

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Executive Summary

The Department of Economics offers a four-year program leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Economics. The program is one of only two undergraduate programs in Economics offers within the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) system and the only in Puerto Rico offering a strong development in quantitative methods and techniques necessary for economic analysis.

Besides providing professional training to students majoring in Economics, the Department also offers a Minor Concentration in Economics mainly design for student's pursuing other fields in the UPRM with an interest in complementing its career development with a knowledge in economics.

The Department educational purpose is to develop students' ability to think clearly and objectively in dealing with economic decisions and problems. Students are trained specifically to replace value judgments and prejudices with sound economic reasoning based on an objective and rational analysis. Beside this function, economic research and the promotion of economic education are two integral elements within the Department.

In this context, the Department mission is to become an advanced department in higher education and research, distinguished internationally for its excellence in the formation of its graduates, dynamically contributing to social and economic development, transforming society through the pursuit of knowledge, in an atmosphere of ethics, justice, and peace.

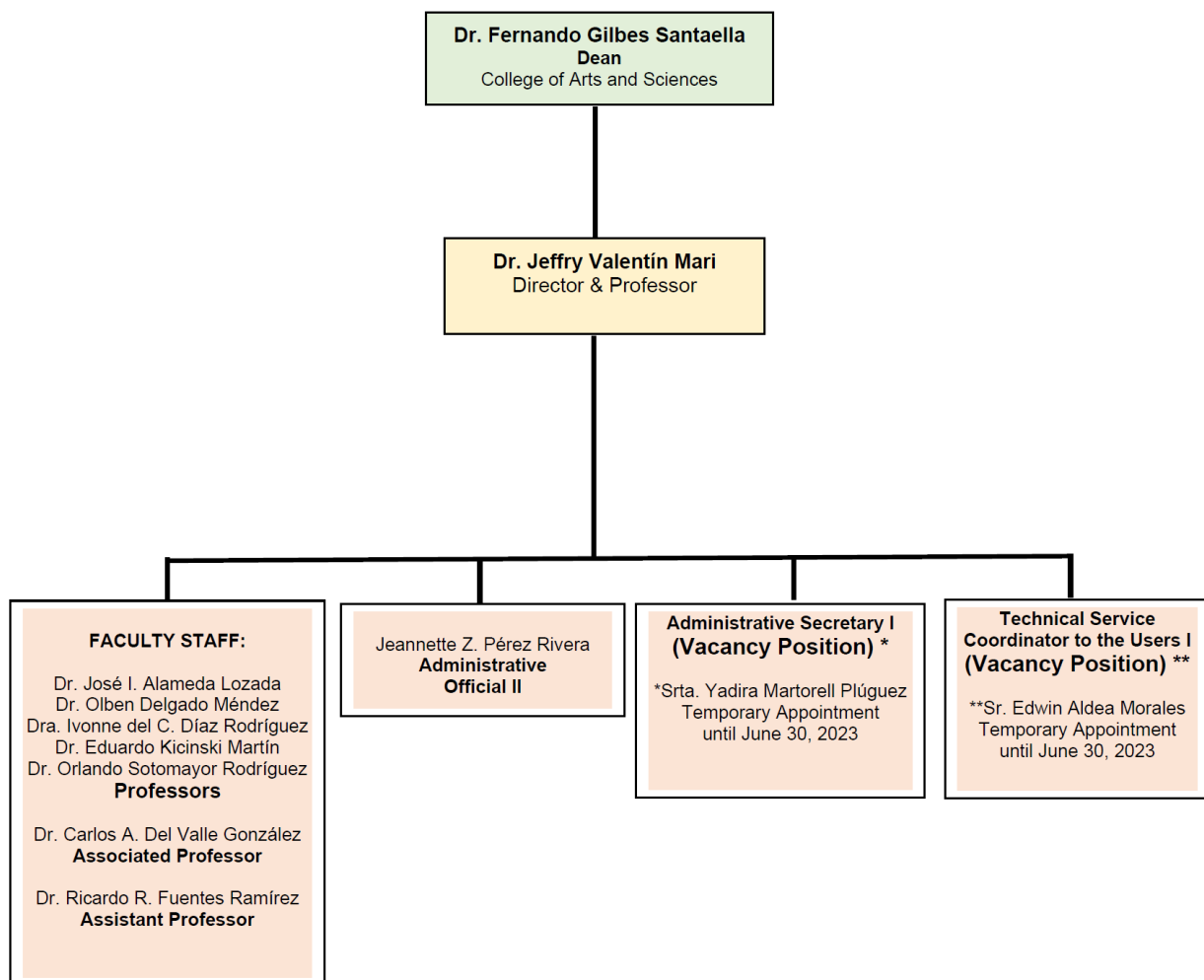
In addition, its vision seeks to provide an excellence service in education, particularly:

- Collaborating in the formation of educated, cultured citizens, able to think critically and professionally prepared in the economic discipline so that can contribute to the educational, cultural, social, technological and economic development.
- Doing creative work, research, and service, that meets the needs of the society and reporting the results of these activities so that they are accessible to everyone.
- Providing our students, the skills and sensitivity needed to effectively solve the problems we face and be an example of the civic formation in education that should prevail in a democratic system that values and respects diversity.

To accomplish these statements, the Department of Economics has a total of eight (8) professors of which seven (6) are in the rank of professor, one with the rank of associate professor and one with the rank of assistant professor. The Department has a Faculty Recruitment Plan reviewed and approved at a departmental meeting on Thursday, December 1, 2016. As for the administrative staff, apart from the position of Director of the Department there are three (3) non-teaching employees, these are: an administrative officer, an administrative secretary, and a coordinator of technical service coordinator to the user.

The Department is in the Efrain Sánchez Hidalgo Building, occupying its administrative offices on the third floor of the building. In addition to that the Department has five classrooms, one computer lab, two meeting rooms, thirteen professor offices, one storage area, and other offices.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS ORGANIGRAM



During the academic year 2022-2023 several activities, initiatives and accomplishments were carried out to support the UPRM institutional objectives. In the assessment area, five different questionnaires were put into effect. These are: (1) A questionnaire was implemented to collect the student perception about the contribution of economics courses to their training, in relation to certain educational objectives of this department; (2) A questionnaire was applied to gather the faculty perception about the administrative functions of the Department; (3) A questionnaire was realized to gather the student's perception about the academic counseling services at the Department of Economics; (4) questionnaire was distributed to the freshman economics students in the orientation and welcome day; (5) An *Exit Questionnaire* was carried out to receive the perspective of the economics senior students. In addition, two separate reports were discussed at the

departmental faculty meeting about the academic profile of (1) the Department's freshman class 2022-2023 and (2) of all active students in the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program.

In the curriculum area, the Department approved the creation of two new undergraduate courses (ECON 3023: Economics for Well-being and Sustainability and ECON 3035: Social and Solidarity Economy). In addition, three courses were submitted as general education courses. These courses are ECON 3021: Principles of Economics: Microeconomics; ECON 3022: Principles of Economics: Macroeconomics and ECON 3085: Economic and Social Development of Puerto Rico. The faculty also approved a motion regarding changes to the prerequisites of several existing ECON coding courses. These courses are ECON 4038: Ecological Economics; ECON 4055: History of Economic Thought; ECON 4074: Economics and Law; ECON 4185: Economic Problems and Trends in Latin America. The list of recommended courses was revised and the requisites for internal and external students transfer to the economics program were revised.

In the administrative area, the Department continues its efforts in the digitization of its archives to liberalize storage space and the implementation of technology to provide a service of excellence.

In the funding and research area, some faculty members have participated as co-principal investigators in several research proposals for external funding with other UPRM institutional units, such as the Department of Civil Engineering, the College of Business Administration, the Department of Social Sciences, among others. The Department also participated in the RUMex program offering ECON courses which represents a newly diversified funds of revenue. The Department recently announced to the university community the publication of the tenth volume of the digital magazine "Ceteris Paribus", which is available at the following link: <https://www.uprm.edu/ceterisparibus/>

In the area of community services and societal impact, the faculty participated continuously in several conferences, discussion panels, meetings that provided an important point of view. Some of our faculty members also collaborated with other governmental agencies, such as the Department of Justice of Puerto Rico, the Puerto Rico Planning Board, and the municipality of Mayaguez.

The following sections presented, aligned with the institutional annual report, the initiatives, activities, and accomplishments carried out by the Department of Economics during the Academic Year 2022-2023. It is important to note that the period of the Covid-19 pandemic, UPR labor union conflicts, fluctuations with public utility services and other limitations has made challenging to accomplish the Department's objectives.

To institutionalize a culture of strategic planning and assessment.

- Dr. Carlos del Valle-Gonzalez, associate professor of the Department of Economics, presides over the efforts of the College of Arts and Sciences on the Strategic Planning Committee. Among its responsibilities includes the update and preparation of the new Faculty Strategic Plan.

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- At faculty level, Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramirez, assistant professor of the Department of Economics and member of the Assessment Committee (at faculty level), informed that the *Revista de Avalúo Plus: Revista de Avalúo del Aprendizaje* was established. The journal will be available online under a Creative Commons license, and also a print version will be available by the *Centro de Publicaciones Académicas (CePA)* of the College of Arts and Sciences. The journal is a platform for the dissemination of the work related to the academic appraisal process. Dr. Fuentes-Ramirez is also member of the Editorial Board of the journal.
 - The Assessment Committee of the Department of Economics carried out an exercise with the purpose of collecting the student perception about the contribution of economics courses to their training, in relation to certain educational objectives of this department. The educational objectives on which the exercise focused were: (1) To provide our students with the theoretical and practical tools that allow them to understand and analyze the economic, social and international environment so that they can make rational decisions, and propose solutions to socioeconomic problems; (2) Train them to perform professionally in their areas of work. To this end, a questionnaire was developed and distributed by email to the students of the department (on February 24, 2023), and on February 28, 2023, a focus group was organized for 4th year students enrolled in ECON 4392: Research Methods in Economics II. The questionnaires were approved by the Committee on the Protection of Human Subjects in Research (CPSHI/IRB) on February 21, 2023 (Protocol No. 2023020015). The final report entitled Evaluation of the Alignment of Economics Courses and Departmental Objectives was presented and approved at the Departmental meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2023.
 - The results of the administrative assessment questionnaire were presented at the fourth regular meeting of the Department of Economics held on Thursday, December 1, 2022. On March 3, 2022, an administrative evaluation questionnaire was distributed to the nine (9) active teachers of the Department of Economics via Google Forms. All professors completed the questionnaire.
 - Information about a workshop titled: "Academic Appraisal and the Design of Questions According to the Cognitive Levels of Bloom's Taxonomy" was distributed to the Department of Economics faculty staff. The workshop resource was Dr. Diana Rodríguez, Appraisal Coordinator of the Department of Kinesiology. The workshop took place on November 17, 2022 at Celis 302.
 - The results of the academic orientation questionnaire corresponding to the second semester of the academic year 2021-2022 were presented at the fourth departmental meeting on Thursday, December 1, 2022. The questionnaire is design to collect the student's perception about the academic counseling services at the Department of Economics. The questionnaire is available at the following link <https://www.uprm.edu/economia/evaluacion-consejeria-academica/>
 - An academic profile of the Department's freshman class 2022-2023 was presented and discussed at the first regular Departmental meeting held on Thursday, August 18, 2022.

- A report presenting the answers to the questionnaire distributed to the freshman students of the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program who attended the welcome and orientation of the Department on Friday, August 5, 2022, was presented and discussed at the 1st regular Departmental meeting held on Thursday, August 18, 2022.
- A report on the academic profile of all active students in the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program was presented at the 2nd regular departmental meeting held on Thursday, October 6, 2022.
- The itinerary of assessments workshops organized by the Assessments Committee of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences were distributed among the teaching staff of the Department of Economics (October 26, 2023).
- The 2023 graduating class of the Department of Economics completed the *Class of 2023 Exit Questionnaire* which was carried out in April 2023. The results of the exit questionnaire will be presented and discussed for approval at the first departmental meeting of the First Semester of the Academic Year 2023-2024.
- The evaluation questionnaire for the Department academic counseling services was distributed among students of the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program (March 1 to May 3, 2023). The questionnaire is available at the following link <https://www.uprm.edu/economia/evaluacion-consejeria-academica/>

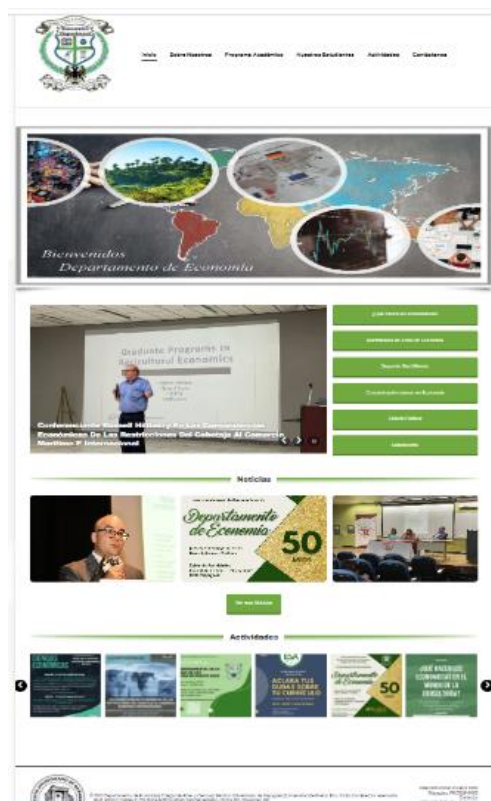
To lead higher education throughout Puerto Rico while guaranteeing the best education for our students.

- Dr. Ivonne del C. Diaz-Rodriguez has developed two new courses in economics and sustainability. This is product of its participation as a co-principal investigator from a proposal of the UPRM Department of Engineering Sciences and Materials (awarded by the National Sciences Foundation and Microsoft).
- Dr. Ivonne del C. Diaz-Rodriguez students (ECON 3021) participated in the academic activity titled *The Economy Through Music* during the first semester 2022-2023.
- Dr. Ivonne del C. Diaz-Rodriguez in coordination with the UPRM Center for Hemispherical Cooperation in Research and Education in Engineering and Applied Science (CoHemis) and Dr. Ricardo Fuentes organized a panel discussion titled: *Alternative Pedagogical Approaches in the Economy*. This event took place in Tarzan Hall on Thursday, March 23, 2023.
- Dr. Ivonne del C. Diaz-Rodriguez developed a syllabus for a new course titled *Economics of Well-being and Sustainability*. This course was approved by the Department of Economics faculty at its ordinary meeting held on May 4, 2023.
- On February 23, 2023, Dr. Ivonne del C. Diaz-Rodriguez offered a presentation titled: *Ecological Economics, Justice and Environmental Conflicts* to the students

of the Environment and Literature course of Dr. Alexandra Morales of the Department of Hispanic Studies.

- On April 5, 2023, Dr. Ivonne del C. Diaz-Rodriguez offered a presentation titled: "The vision of the ecological economy and the pursuit of well-being" to students of the course INGE 5996: "Creating a Sustainable World" of Dr. Christopher Papadopoulos of the Department of Engineering Sciences and Materials.
- Dr. Ivonne del C. Diaz-Rodriguez offered a presentation titled "The vision of ecological economics and the teaching of economics" on March 23, 2023. This conference was part of the panel discussion titled: Alternative Pedagogical Approaches in the Economy held in UPRM Tarzan Hall on Thursday, March 23, 2023.
- Dr. Ivonne del C. Diaz-Rodriguez students of its ecological economics course (ECON 4038) presented a research proposal related to the Puerto Rican ecological situation, including blue communities, a government for welfare, solar energy and agricultural lands, and regenerative and circular wastewater treatment.
- On May 1, 2023, Dr. Ivonne del C. Diaz-Rodriguez organized a virtual lecture to its students of the ecological economics course (ECON 4038). The lecture was offered by Marianna Defendini-Torres, a graduate student at London School of Economics and former UPRM economics student. The lecture was titled Equity: from the lens of a gender analysis.
- The faculty of the Department of Economics at its fourth ordinary meeting on Thursday, December 1, 2022, approved the revision of the list of courses to be used as recommended electives of the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program. Justifications for including new courses to the recommended electives list includes (1) courses that are part of minor concentrations and/or curricular sequences and (2) courses requested by students pursuing a second bachelor's degree in economics.
- A report from the Curriculum Committee was distributed among the faculty staff, presenting a summary of the elements to be considered for the initial elaboration of a master's degree proposal in economics. The report was presented at the Department's fourth ordinary meeting held on Thursday, December 1, 2022.
- The Departmental Curriculum Committee attended the workshops organized by the Institutional Committee of General Education held in the First Semester of Academic Year 2022-2023.
- On Monday, December 5, 2022, the Department of Economics submitted to the Institutional Committee of General Education the review of three ECON undergraduate coding courses to be considered as general education courses. These courses are given as follows: ECON 3021: Principles of Economics: Microeconomics; ECON 3022: Principles of Economics: Macroeconomics and ECON 3085: Economic and Social Development of Puerto Rico.

- The website of the Department of Economics was renovated (<https://www.uprm.edu/economia/>) improving the way curricular information is organized.



- As part of an institutional project to transform classrooms into technological virtual classrooms, the UPRM's Information Technologies Center included in its first phase two classrooms of the Department of Economics, these are SH-102 and SH-103. The Department Coordinator of Technical Services to the User facilitated training for the faculty staff on how to use the newly installed equipment.



The Department faculty staff collaborated on Friday, August 5, 2022, in the welcome and orientation day for new students of the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program, specifically, doctors Carlos del Valle-González, Eduardo Kicinski-Martín, Jeffry Valentín-Mari and Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramírez. In addition to the attendance of economics students: María E. Rodríguez-Carrió and Laura S. Marrero-Baldaguez on behalf of the Association of Economics Students.

- The Department of Economics received institutional funding to acquire twenty (20) new licenses of the STATA program that will be available in the computer lab at SH-301.
- The Curriculum Committee of the Department of Economics reviewed and approved amendments to the current internal and external transfers criteria of the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program. These changes will apply from the academic year 2023-2024.
- The faculty of the Department of Economics at its third regular meeting of the second semester 2022-2023, which was held on Thursday, May 4, 2023, approved without opposition a motion regarding changes to the prerequisites of several existing ECON coding courses. These courses are ECON 4038: Ecological Economics; ECON 4055: History of Economic Thought; ECON 4074: Economics and Law; ECON 4185: Economic Problems and Trends in Latin America.
- The faculty of the Department of Economics in its third ordinary meeting of the second semester 2022-2023, which took place last Thursday, May 4, 2023, approved without opposition a motion in favor of the creation of two new ECON courses of the Bachelor of Arts Program in Economics. The courses are ECON 3023: Economics for Well-being and Sustainability and ECON 3035: Social and Solidarity Economy.
- On November 28, 2022, a report entitled *Should the Department of Economics Offer a Master's Degree?* prepared by Dr. Eduardo Kicinski, Chair of the Curriculum Committee of the Department of Economic was presented at the faculty meeting.
- A draft of the master's degree in economics proposal was discussed and approved as part of the work of the third departmental meeting of the second semester of the academic year 2022-2023.
- The institutional platform Moodle (online.upr.edu) was applied as part of the courses ECON 4068: Economics of Tourism and ECON 3022: Principles of



Economics: Macroeconomics in the second semester of the academic year 2022-2023.

- All classrooms and administrative offices windows were replaced with new ones as part of an institutional improvement project in the Efrain Sánchez Hidalgo Building.



- The Department administrative staff distributed on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, several forms and templates requested by the College of Arts and Sciences as part of the license renewal process that UPRM must meet, as required by the Board of Postsecondary Institutions. The Board of Postsecondary Institutions (JIPs) under the Office of Registration and Licensing of Educational Institutions (ORLIE) of the Department of State, is the agency in charge of administering public policy regarding the licensing criteria of postsecondary education in Puerto Rico, within the regulatory framework established by Reorganization Plan No. 6-2018 and Law 212-2018 (Law on Registration and Licensing of Educational Institutions). The JIPs has the authority to issue licenses to all postsecondary education institutions in Puerto Rico.
- The Department of Economics participated in the RUMex program offering in the first and second semester of the academic year 2022-2023 sections of the courses ECON 3021: Principles of Economics: Microeconomics and ECON 3022: Principles of Economics: Macroeconomic.
- The report of the five-year evaluation of the Minor Concentration in Economics was completed and eventually approved by the chairs of the Curriculum and Assessment Committees (Dr. Eduardo Kicinski and Dr. Ricardo Fuentes) on



Tuesday, January 10, 2023, both being members of the Evaluation Committee of the report. The report was presented to the consideration of the faculty of the Department and by electronic referendum being approved on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. The report was delivered to the Dean of Academic Affairs on Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

- The Department of Economics has two virtual (or hybrid) classrooms (i.e., SH-102 and SH-103). It is expected that between June 10 and 28, 2023, similar equipment is in process of being installed in classroom SH-104. The Information Technologies Center at UPRM reported that it is still waiting to receive the first 100 podiums for the virtual classrooms. On Wednesday, May 3, 2023, the podium of Hall SH-104 was delivered to the Department.



- A new server unit was received in the Department of Economics. It is expected to receive the new battery backup units required to proceed with the installation of the new server.
- The Department received a total of twenty (20) new chairs to replace the old ones located at the faculty offices. The new chairs will be made of durable plastic material allowing the Department to address the problem of fungi and humidity.



To increase and diversify the Institution's sources of revenue.

- Dr. Carlos A. del Valle-Gonzalez, Associated Professor of the Department of Economics, participated in the National UTC proposal led by the University of South Florida to establish a University Transportation Center named *National Institute for Congestion Reduction (NICR)*. The proposal includes both research and educational components to be carried out by Dr. Alberto Figueroa-Medina, Dr. Didier Valdés, Dr. Ivette Cruzado, and Dr. Daniel Rodríguez, from the Department of Civil Engineering, and Dr. del Valle-Gonzalez, from the Department of Economics, at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (UPRM). To support the execution of the project, Dr. del Valle received a release time of three (3) credits per semester for the academic year 2022-2023. The release load per semester for two semester was equivalent to \$17,415/year from base salary. In addition, the

project assigned to Dr. del Valle-Gonzalez for fringe benefits, including health insurance, \$6,440.83/year from base salary. Dr. del Valle-Gonzalez project purpose was to investigate (1) the financial incentives to reduce vehicle mile traveled and (2) the multimodal travel behavior obtained from an open-source platform supporting traffic congestion reducing strategies. Dr. del Valle-Gonzalez participation allowed the integration of two undergraduate students as research assistants (Jorge Quiles Merle and Enzo G. Gutiérrez Lorea) from the Department of Economics to support its investigation for the academic year.

- María Eugenia Rodríguez-Carrió, senior student of the Department of Economics, together with the student Adriana Ramírez-Cubas, of the Department of Civil Engineering, participated in a project funded by the UPRM Sea Grant Program to document environmental conflicts on the island, through the Global Atlas of Environmental Justice. Dr. Ivonne del C. Díaz-Rodríguez, professor at the Department of Economics participate in the project and gave research support for both students.
- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramírez continued following his five-year research plan that includes a proposal with Puerto Rico Planning Board. The proposal is part of an intra governmental effort to revised the system of national accounts of Puerto Rico.
- Dr. Carlos A. del Valle-González has an intramural practice with the municipality of Mayaguez. The project title is *Review of Alternatives for the Collective Transportation System in the Autonomous Municipality of Mayagüez (Mayagüez Transit Study 2015)*.
- Dr. Ivonne del C. Díaz-Rodríguez participates as a co-principal investigator in a project developed by the faculty of engineering for the National Science Foundation, entitled "A New Paradigm for Sustainability and Resilience Engineering: A Transdisciplinary, Learner-Centered, and Diversity-Focused Approach. PI: Dr. Christopher Papadopoulos.
- The Department of Economics participates in the RUMex program offering course sections of ECON 3021: Principles of Economics: Microeconomics and ECON 3022: Principles of Economics: Macroeconomics during the first and second semester of the academic year 2022-2023. Based on information provided by the Dean of Academic Affairs this participation allowed the Department to receive an income \$6,441.03 in the First Semester 2022-2023 and \$9,777.66 in the Second Semester 2022-2023. These funds are assigned according the Certification No. 21-46 and Certification No. 22-98, both of the Academic Senate of the UPRM.
- Dr. Carlos A. del Valle González participated as a co-investigator at the *National Institute for Congestion Reduction (NICR of the USDOT)* under the supervision of the principal investigator Dr. Alberto M. Figueroa of the Department of Civil Engineering of the UPRM. Economics students Enzo Gutiérrez-Lorea and Jorge J. Quiles-Merle receive research assistantships for participating in this project.

- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramirez and Dr. Jeffry Valentin-Mari are developing the logistics to visits high schools of the western region in order to promote among high school students the importance about the science of economics.

To implement efficient and expedient administrative procedures.

- The results of the administrative assessment questionnaire were presented at the fourth regular meeting of the Department of Economics held on Thursday, December 1, 2022. On March 3, 2022. The administrative evaluation questionnaire was distributed to the nine (9) active teachers of the Department of Economics via Google Forms. All faculty members completed the questionnaire.
- Departmental meetings are held without the need to print documents. Meeting support documents are made accessible through the OneDrive application of the Microsoft 365 platform to teaching staff. Similarly, the process of registering attendance is done digitally.
- At the second regular departmental meeting on Thursday, October 6, 2022, the photocopier report was presented, which includes (1) analysis of the use of photocopier for the academic year 2021-2022, (2) analysis of photocopier expenses from fiscal year 2008-2009 to 2021-2022 and (3) analysis of copy consumption in the period of the academic year 2003-2004 to 2020-2021. The report concludes that the use and expenditure of photocopiers has decreased significantly in the aforementioned period.
- As part of the training process of the administrative staff of the Department, the following workshops were attended:
 - Workshop Law of LGBTQ+ students (Circular Letter R-2122-76); Thursday, September 1, 2022; organized by the office of the chancellor.
 - Training Workshop for Administrative Staff; Tuesday, August 30, 2022; organized by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.
 - Workshop on new travel forms in the UPR system; Friday, August 5, 2022; organized by Central Administration.
- Digitalization Project. The Department continues a document digitization effort in order to liberalize storage space. The administrative office located at SH-302 has limited space for document archiving purposes (i.e., the warehouse at SH-305D and the area near the photocopier at SH-302). The Digitization Plan has been governed by Certification No. 62 (2015-2016) of the Board of Governors of the University of Puerto Rico, as amended by the Regulations for the Administration, Conservation and Disposition of Documents of the University of Puerto Rico. The digitization process has been carried out since the first semester of the 2019-2020 academic year (see Director's Report delivered at the ordinary meeting of Thursday, October 25, 2019). Up to now, documents from the 1980s and 1990s have been digitized. In the coming weeks, the digitization of documents from the first decade of 2000s will begin. Documents from the 1970s for historical reasons

have remained on paper. The goal is to leave two decades on paper, this is the decade of 2010 and 2020. The idea is that every time a decade is fulfilled the oldest decade is digitized. The assistance of Ms. Yadira Martorell-Plúñez, Administrative Secretary I, and Mr. Edwin Aldea-Morales, Coordinator of Technical Services to User I, has been fundamental to achieve this project.

- VoIP Telephony Service: As part of the technology transition project of the telephone system of the Campus, the Department is pending to receive a new POE (Power Over Ethernet) Switch that would allow connecting a greater number of VOIP (Voice over IP) telephones, which will benefit the teaching offices on the third floor. In addition, the Department will receive together with the Switch the corresponding VOIP telephone units.
- An online situation report is available to all faculty staff in order to report any situation related to the areas (i.e., administrative offices, faculty offices, classrooms) assigned to the Department of Economics. The online report is available at <https://www.uprm.edu/economia/facultad/>.
- An online questionnaire is accessible to all students, where they can inform their perceptions about the Department academic counseling services. The questionnaire is available at <https://www.uprm.edu/economia/evaluacion-consejeria-academica/>
- The signrequest.com platform has been highly used for administrative and academics processes.
- The Department's website is continuously updated. On May 3, 2023, the Technical Services Coordinator participated in a Hand on Training on Accessibility to Web Pages for blind people sponsored by the Information Systems personnel of the UPR Central Administration. As an educational institution that uses federal funds, the federal department of education requires that the institution's webpages comply with the digital accessibility requirement. This implies that Department webpages must be navigable by people with limited accessibility. Currently the website of the Department of Economics meets this requirement.

To strengthen research and competitive creative endeavors.

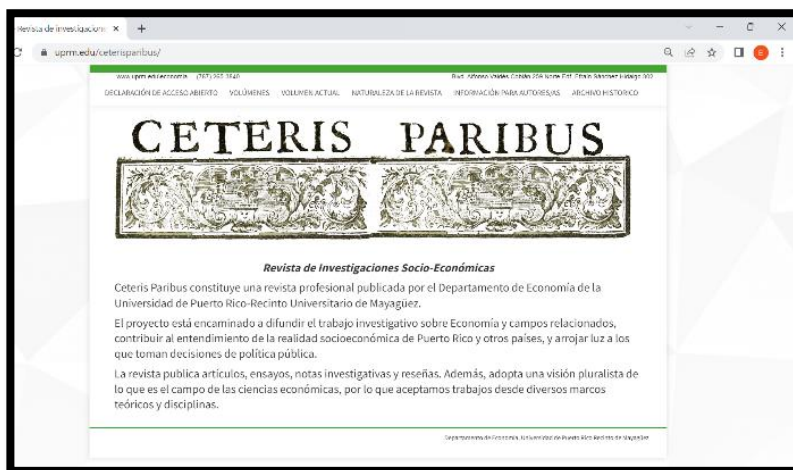
- Dr. Carlos A. del Valle-Gonzalez, Associated Professor of the Department of Economics, participated in the National UTC proposal led by the University of South Florida to establish a University Transportation Center named *National Institute for Congestion Reduction (NICR)*. The proposal includes both research and educational components to be carried out by Dr. Alberto Figueroa-Medina, Dr. Didier Valdés, Dr. Ivette Cruzado, and Dr. Daniel Rodríguez, from the Department of Civil Engineering, and Dr. del Valle-Gonzalez, from the Department of Economics, at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (UPRM). To support the execution of the project, Dr. del Valle received a release time of three (3) credits per semester for the academic year 2022-2023. The release load per semester for two semester was equivalent to \$17,415/year from base salary. In addition, the

project assigned to Dr. del Valle-Gonzalez for fringe benefits, including health insurance, \$6,440.83/year from base salary. Dr. del Valle-Gonzalez project purpose was to investigate (1) the financial incentives to reduce vehicle mile traveled and (2) the multimodal travel behavior obtained from an open-source platform supporting traffic congestion reducing strategies. Dr. del Valle-Gonzalez participation allowed the integration of two undergraduate students as research assistants (Jorge Quiles Merle and Enzo G. Gutiérrez Lorea) from the Department of Economics to support its investigation for the academic year.

- Dra. Ivonne del C. Díaz-Rodríguez participated in a proposal sponsored by the NSF and Microsoft for the development of two courses on economics and sustainability, through the Department of Materials Engineering of the UPRM. During the First Semester and the Second Semester its participation was concentrated in the development of two new courses on economics and sustainability: Sustainable Economic Analysis and Economics for the 21st Century. In addition, Dr. Diaz-Rodriguez plans to participate in the organization of several activities related to these proposals, such as the 2023 summer camp for future students of this program.
- Publication of the book "Verdor que Clama" in September 2022, edited by doctors Carmen Rivera Villegas and Alexandra Morales of the Department of Hispanic Studies of the UPRM. The publication includes an essay "Impact of Catastrophic Climate Changes" by Dr. Ivonne del C. Díaz of the Department of Economics of the UPRM.
- Dr. Ivonne del C. Diaz-Rodriguez participated in collaborative agreement with the UPRM Sea Grant Office to document environmental conflicts through the Environmental Justice Atlas. Two students participated during the second semester 2022-2023: María Eugenia Rodríguez-Carrió, from the Department of Economics, and Adriana Ramírez-Cuebas, student at the Department of Civil Engineering.
- Dr. Ivonne del C. Diaz-Rodriguez participated in Sea Grant-funded project to document environmental conflicts in Puerto Rico, through the Global Atlas of Environmental Justice.
- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramirez, Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics, participated on a proposal funded by the Economic Development Agency (NPO-SIED) in collaboration with the UPRM College of Business Administration. Dr. Fuentes-Ramirez also participated in a pre-proposal submitted to the National Science Foundation entitled "Engineering Research Center for a Rural Adaptable and Inclusive Community Resilience Decision-support System (Rural-ACCoRDS)". In addition, a contract was signed to start work during the Second Semester 2022-2023 with a grant from CDBG-DR funds for the development of resilience plans for seven communities on the island.



- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramirez, Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics, participated as a speaker in the following conferences: Political Economy of Native Capital. Conference Critical Political Economy of Puerto Rico: Past, Present and Future. University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras. April 27, 2023. Economic Planning in National and Regional Contexts. Third Congress of Applied Economics of Puerto Rico. University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez. May 5, 2023.
- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramirez, Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics, participated as an investigator in the following's proposal awarded:
 - *The Comprehensive Community Resilience Planning Program*, funded by federal CDBG-DR funds administered by the Department of Housing, was able to present the planning process to be carried out to the seven participating communities, and all of them were able to obtain the signing of the collaboration agreement. The evidence documents were submitted to the Department of Housing for notice to proceed to begin the next phase of the project over the summer.
 - *Nonprofit Organizations Strengthening Initiative for Economic Development*, funded by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, after "graduating" the first cohort of Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) that received assistance from the project, the call was launched and constituted the second cohort. The technical component that will underlie the economic impact measurement tool that will be made available to NPOs has been completed. The design of the final appearance of the tool and the drafting of instructions for future users began.
- The Department of Economics announced to the UPRM university community on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 the publication of the tenth volume of the digital magazine "Ceteris Paribus", which is available at the following link:



<https://www.uprm.edu/ceterisparibus/> . The tenth volume of the journal, edited and coordinated by Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Associated Professor, it addresses several socioeconomic issues, including the effects of climate change on the coast of Mayagüez, LGBTQ tourism as a development strategy, economic development planning, among others. It is noteworthy that the Volume X includes undergraduate investigations, which are describe as follows:

- Zuriel N. Cruz-Reyes presents an assessment of sea level rise projections off the coast of Mayagüez and using the ArcGIS tool and data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The investigation findings are an alarming reminder about the consequences of climate change and the urgency of preparedness. Thousands of structures, businesses and homes are at risk of disappearing under the sea, with the poorest communities being the most affected. The investigation calls on the government to collaborate with the UPR to carry out more studies and a good long-term planning exercise.
- Ramon L. Rodríguez-Maldonado presents his analysis of the strategy of promoting Puerto Rico as an LGBTQ tourist destination through a historical and comparative analysis of other jurisdictions that have employed this strategy. The study is highly pertinent, as the destination marketing organization established by the Government of Puerto Rico (DiscoverPR) has begun promoting the island as an LGBTQ tourist destination. However, Rodríguez Maldonado finds that where this strategy was successful was in jurisdictions that had gender-sensitive educational curricula with an emphasis on the LGBTQ community in their public schools, and/or a long history of militancy and struggle for the rights of queer communities. Without this in mind, promoting Puerto Rico as an LGBTQ destination is analogous to the merchant who sticks a rainbow in the window of his business to attract more consumers but does not take any concrete steps to be a true ally or ensure that his space is truly safe for queer people. However, Rodríguez Maldonado makes suggestions to correct this deficiency and implement this strategy in a successful and inclusive way in Puerto Rico.
- Joshua L. Toro-Casiano investigation explore the UPRM students' preferences between going to the movies and streaming movies. In addition to finding interesting findings about economics students' film preferences, it traces implications for the movie theater industry in Puerto Rico. Unlike other countries, in Puerto Rico this industry has done very little to differentiate itself and expand the comfort and services offered when visiting a movie theater. This gap in turn presents investment opportunities for local businesses.
- The tenth volume also included two essays, one written by Prof. Alfredo González-Martínez and another by Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramírez, which discuss the deterioration of Puerto Rico's institutional framework and economic structure and outline specific recommendations to change the

island's economic trajectory. As in previous volumes, we aspire that this Volume X will serve as a pedagogical tool in classrooms, and in general be part of the national conversation to identify solutions to the diverse socioeconomic problems we face in Puerto Rico.



- On Tuesday, April 25, 2023, the research projects of the students of the course ECON 4392: Research Methods at Economics were presented. The activity was organized by Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramírez, Assistant Professor of the Department of Economics.
- Faculty and students of the Department of Economics participated in the third edition of the Applied Economic Congress, an activity organized by the Department of Agriculture Economics and Rural Sociology. The Congress was held Tarzan Hall on Friday, May 5, 2023. Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramírez, assistant professor of the Department of Economics, offered a conference titled *Economic Planification in Regionals and National Contexts: What's Apply in Puerto Rico?* In addition, economics students of the course ECON 4017: Econometrics were awarded for their research projects presentations. This includes Alexi Hu We (first prize), Jose Andres Torres and Guillermo Vargas (2nd prize), and Linda Rivas and Marcos Pesante (3rd prize).



To Impact Our Puerto Rican Society.

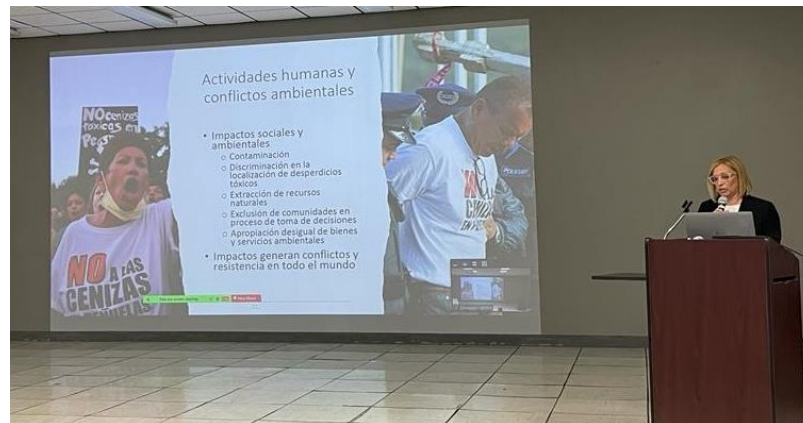
- Dr. José I. Alameda-Lozada collaborates as an advisor to the Secretary of Justice of the Government of Puerto Rico (received previous approval and consent of the UPRM Chancellor according to Law No. 100 of June 27, 1956, as amended).
- Dr. Carlos A. Del Valle González assists the Dean of Administration of the UPRM in identifying initiatives and designing alternatives for CDBG fundraising with the intention of benefiting the Mayagüez Terrace community.
- Dra. Ivonne del C. Díaz Rodríguez organized, together with COHEMIS, the discussion panel: *Environmental Conflicts in Puerto Rico: The Coasts and Citizen Action* with the participation of doctors Ana Navarro of Sea Grant, Maritza Barreto of the Graduate School of Planning and Ivonne del C. Díaz, of the Department of Economics of the UPRM (November 15, 2022).



- Publication of the book "Verdor que Clama" in September 2022, edited by doctors Carmen Rivera Villegas and Alexandra Morales of the Department of Hispanic Studies of the UPRM. It contains the essay "Impact of Catastrophic Climate Changes" by Dr. Ivonne del C. Díaz, from the Department of Economics of the UPRM. The presentation of the book took place at the UPRM on February 23, 2023. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVIDyGYJi18&t=10s>



- January 14, 2023 (San Juan): Participation in the presentation of the book "Ecosocial Pacts in Puerto Rico", published in 2021, which includes an essay "Economies for well-being: Models and strategies for a just transition" by Dr. Ivonne Diaz-Rodriguez. Available at <https://pactosecosocialespr.com/ensayos/6-economias-para-el-bienestar-modelos-y-estrategias-para-una-transicion-justa/>. This book, and the art that accompanies its chapters, will also be presented in several international forums:
 - 8th National Meeting on Climate Justice to be held from February 10 in Coimbra, Portugal.
 - On February 21, 2023 at the Institute of Environmental Sciences and Technology (ICTA) in Barcelona Spain.
 - February 25, 2023 at the meeting "Towards a Post-Extractive Culture" in the city of Amsterdam.



- Dr. Ivonne Diaz-Rodriguez offered a presentation to students of the Environment and Literature course of Dr. Alexandra Morales of the Department of Hispanic Studies. The presentation titled "Ecological Economics, Justice and Environmental Conflicts", was held on February 23, 2023.
- Dr. Ivonne Diaz-Rodriguez offered a presentation to students of the course INGE 5996: "Creating a Sustainable World" by Dr. Christopher Papadopoulos: The presentation titled "The vision of the ecological economy and the pursuit of well-being", was held on April 5, 2023.

- Dr. Ivonne del C. Diaz-Rodriguez in coordination with the UPRM Center for Hemispherical Cooperation in Research and Education in Engineering and Applied Science (CoHemis) and Dr. Ricardo Fuentes organized a panel discussion titled: *Alternative Pedagogical Approaches in the Economy*. This event took place in Tarzan on Thursday, March 23, 2023.
- Dr. Ivonne del C. Diaz-Rodriguez offered a presentation titled "The Vision of Green Economics and the Teaching of Economics", March 23, 2023.
- Students of the ecological economics course presented research proposals related to the Puerto Rican situation, including blue communities, a government for welfare, solar energy and agricultural lands, and regenerative and circular wastewater treatment.
- Graduate student Marianna Defendini Torres, from the London School of Economics, and former student of the Department of Economics, gave a virtual lecture to students of the ecological economics course, "Equity: from the lens of a gender analysis", May 1, 2023.
- A part of the works of the Annual Assembly of the Association of Economists of Puerto Rico (AEPR), Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez presented an investigation titled *Economic development through improvements in governance, local capital, innovation, and poverty reduction*. The assembly took place in Plaza Universitaria at the UPR Rio Piedras Campus in October 28, 2023.
- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramirez served as a member of the Economics Association of Puerto Rico Board of Directors and was elected president of the association for the period 2024-2025. As part of its functions includes collaboration in explanatory memorials on economic policies discussed in the Puerto Rico Legislative Assembly. <https://www.economistaspr.com/sobre-nosotros> ; <https://www.economistaspr.com/single-post/aepr-celebra-su-38va-asamblea-anual-y-renueva-su-directiva>



- On March 16, 2023, Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes offered a conference open to the UPRM community titled *Impact of Poverty on Access to Justice*. The conference was sponsored by COHEMIS.
- On March 28, 2023, Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes organized a virtual forum with Dr. Ian Seda-Irizarry, acting director of the economics graduate program at John Jay College, NY.



- As part of the collaboration agreement with the Planning Board, a "Policy Brief" was prepared in collaboration with Dr. Julio C. Hernández-Correa, summarizing the agency's challenges and the importance of economic data. The agency shared the document with the Financial Oversight and Management Board, with the aim of prioritizing investment in economic data.
- On Thursday, August 25, a conference was given by Dr. Carlos Vargas Silva, Director of the Center for Studies on Migration, Politics and Society (COMPAS) at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom. Dr. Vargas Silva conference titled "Migration: a new opportunity for economic development" was held at the Ramón Figueroa Chapel Amphitheater, better known as Chardon Amphitheater.



- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez and Dr. Jeffry Valentín Mari participated in a project directed by Dr. Milagritos González, Professor of the Department of Psychology, related to the "Massive Open Online Courses - MOOC's" with the idea

of creating online courses with the assistance of the staff of the Resource Center for Distance Education (CREAD) aimed mainly at interested high school students.

- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor, reported that Volume X of the journal *Ceteris Paribus* is available on the Department's website in <https://www.uprm.edu/ceterisparibus/>. This task is part of his five-year investigation plan.
- On Thursday, November 10, 2022, the Open House was held at the UPRM where high school students received orientation about UPRM academic programs, including economics. The Department participation included the collaboration of economics students, such as Alexi Wu-He, Stephanie Sabido-Medina, Edith C. Santiago-Mercado and Derek Velázquez-López.



- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Associate Professor of the Department of Economics participated as a lecturer in the conference entitled: *Impact of Poverty on Access to Justice*. Sponsored by the Center for Cooperation in Research and Education in Engineering and Applied Sciences (CoHemis). Held on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at the Nursing Amphitheater.
- Dr. José Caraballo Cueto, Associate Professor of the Graduate School of Business Administration of the UPR Río Piedras Campus offered a conference entitled: *Measuring the impact of changing political status on the economy: preliminary findings*. The research presented is the product of a grant received by Dr. Caraballo of the Open Society Foundations. The conference date was Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 10:30 am (universal time) in the Nursing Amphitheater.

◦ DEPARTAMENTO DE ECONOMÍA ◦

CONFERENCIA ◦

A MEDIR EL IMPACTO DE
CAMBIAR EL ESTATUS
POLÍTICO EN LA ECONOMÍA:
HALLAZGOS PRELIMINARES

CONFERENCIANTE

Dr. José Caraballo Cueto

Catedrático asociado de la Escuela Graduada
de Administración de Empresas de la
Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Río
Piedras.



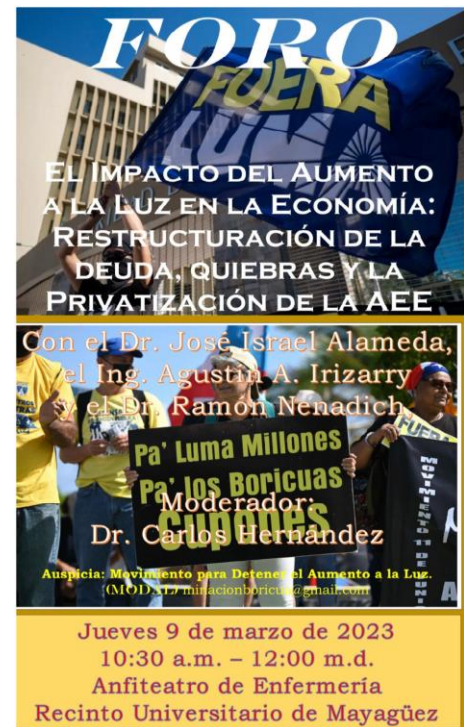
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30 DE MARZO DE 2023
10:30 AM A 12:00 MD

- Dr. Martín Guzmán, professor of economics at *Columbia University*, co-chair of the *Initiative for Policy Dialogue* (initiative of Dr. Joseph Stiglitz, 2001 Economics Nobel Prize) and former Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Argentina (2019 -2022) offered a conference on the public debt crisis on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 10:30 am (Universal Time) at the Figueroa Chapel Amphitheater.
- Dr. Carlos A. del Valle González participated as a co-principal investigator at the *National Institute for Congestion Reduction (NICR of the USDOT)* under the supervision of the principal investigator Dr. Alberto M. Figueroa of the Department of Civil Engineering of the UPRM. Economics students Enzo Gutiérrez Lorea and Jorge J. Quiles Merle receive research assistantships for participating in this project.
- Participation of Dr. Carlos A. del Valle González, Associate Professor of the Department of Economics, as a speaker at the Symposium Strategies for Congestion Reduction for Puerto Rico. Activity organized by the Department of Civil Engineering. The symposium was held on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at the UPRM Civil Engineering Auditorium.



- Dr. Jose I. Alameda-Lozada, professor of the Department of Economics, serve as the main speaker at the conference titled *El Impacto del Aumento en la Luz en la Economía: Reestructuración de la Deuda, Quiebras y las Privatización de la AEE*. The conference was held at the UPRM's Anfiteatro de Enfermería on Thursday, March 9, 2023.
- Several students of the Department of Economics participated in the UPRM study abroad program, including Fernando Chávez-Vázquez at Complutense University in Madrid and Alejandro Ouslan-Cerritos at University of Salamanca. In addition, Alejandro Ouslan-Cerritos submitted application for the *American Economics Association (AEA) Summer Training Program* to be held at Howard University in summer 2023. It is important to mention that the economics student Alejandro Ouslan has taught two hours of classes, as an international guest professor, on "The use of Python for purposes of Statistics Applied to Social Sciences" in the Degree of Political Science and Administration of the University of Salamanca.
- Dr. Jeffry Valentin-Mari and Dr. Jose I. Alameda-Lozada, were speakers in the radio program *Directo al Punto con Ada Jitza* as part of a discussion analysis titled *The Cabotage Laws: Origin and Economics Consequence's*. The program was held on two different days (Thursday, October 6 and 12, 2022).




- Dr. Ivonne Díaz participated in the presentation of the book "*Verdor que Clama*" edited by professors Carmen Rivera Villegas and Alexandra Morales of the Department of Hispanic Studies. The presentation was held on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 10:30 am by the Microsoft Teams platform.
- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez is a participant of a study carried out by the Observatory of Public Education of the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies in

Government and Public Affairs (CEMGAP) of the Graduate School of Public Administration of the UPR Río Piedras Campus. The study was commissioned by the Presidency of the UPR. The objective is to assess the effects of budget cuts and increases in tuition costs on student recruitment and quality of educational services.

- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez and Dr. Jeffry Valentín Mari continue to work on the project entitled *Open Free Courses of Advance Credit (CAAM)*. The project is part of a proposal of external funds in which the Deanship of Students, the Center for Learning and Success RUMbo EX participate. The project coordinator is Dr. Milagritos González Rivera.
- Dr. José I. Alameda, Professor of the Department of Economics was authorized by the UPRM authorities to provide consulting services on economics and planning issues to the Municipality of Mayagüez.
- Dr. Jose Alameda-Lozada, professor of the Department of Economics, offered a conference titled *The Adjustment Plan of the AEE Debt: Implications and Future Perspectives*. The conference was held on march 29, 2023 at the UPR Rio Piedras Campus.
- Faculty and students of the Department of Economics participated in the third edition of the Applied Economic Congress, an activity organized by the Department of Agriculture Economics and Rural Sociology. The Congress was held Tarzan Hall on Friday, May 5, 2023. Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramirez, assistant professor of the Department of Economics, offered a conference titled *Economic Planification in Regionals and National Contexts: What's Apply in Puerto Rico?* In addition, economics students of the course ECON 4017: Econometrics were awarded for their research projects. This include Alexi Hu We (first prize), Jose Andres Torres and Guillermo Vargas (2nd prize), and Linda Rivas and Marcos Pesante (3rd prize).

El Plan de Ajuste de la Deuda de la AEE: Implicaciones y Perspectivas Futuras



Central Palo Seco, en Cataño
Foto por: Xavier Araujo, GFR Media

Panelistas:
Dr. José Alameda || Prof. Heriberto Martínez
Lcdo. Rolando Emmanuelli

REDES || 1er piso - REB
Facultad de Ciencias Sociales
miércoles 29 de marzo, 2023
11:30 am - 1:00 pm



TERCER CONGRESO ECONOMÍA APLICADA DE PUERTO RICO
"Retos y Oportunidades en los Mercados Agrícolas"



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FECHA
Viernes, 5 de mayo de 2023

HORA
7:30 AM - 12:30 PM

LUGAR
Salón Tarzán del Centro de Estudiantes en el RUM

AUSPICIADORES



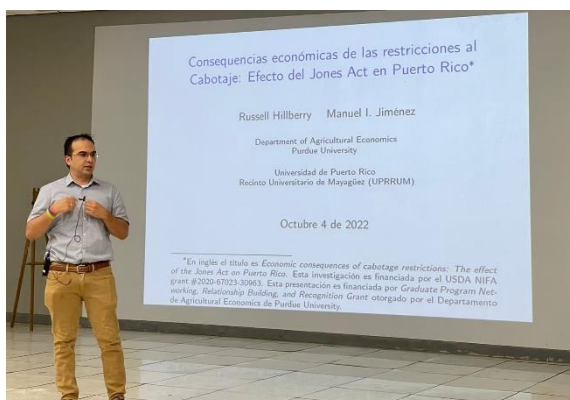
Ofrecido a ustedes por el Departamento de Economía Agrícola y Sociología Rural
Asociación de Economía Agrícola y Agronegocios (AECAG)

To Strengthen School Spirit, Pride, and Identity

- Dr. Carlos A. del Valle-González collaborates in an intramural practice with the municipality of Mayaguez. The project is titled *Review of Alternatives for the Collective Transportation System in the Autonomous Municipality of Mayagüez* (Mayagüez Transit Study 2015).
- Dra. Ivonne del C. Díaz-Rodríguez and Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramirez assists as advisor to the Economics Students Association for the academic year 2022-2023.
- Dr. Ivonne del C. Diaz-Rodriguez participated in the seminar titled *Strategies for the Development of Communities* offered by the UPRM Institute for Community Development (Saturday, February 4, 2023).
- Graduate student Marianna Defendini Torres, from the London School of Economics and former student of the Department of Economics, gave a virtual lecture to students of the ecological economics course, "Equity: from the lens of a gender analysis", May 1, 2023.
- Dr. Ivonne del C. Diaz-Rodriguez in coordination with the UPRM Center for Hemispherical Cooperation in Research and Education in Engineering and Applied Science (CoHemis) and Dr. Ricardo Fuentes-Ramirez organized a panel discussion titled: *Alternative Pedagogical Approaches in the Economy*. This event took plaza in Tarzan Hall on Thursday, March 23, 2023.
- The participation of students and faculty of Department of Economics in the Annual Assembly of the Association of Economists of Puerto Rico (AEPR) was coordinated by Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramirez, where links were established between the UPRM Economics Student Association and that of Rio Piedras, and a position was created to be occupied by a student representative of the Department of Economics in the Board of Directors of the AEPR.



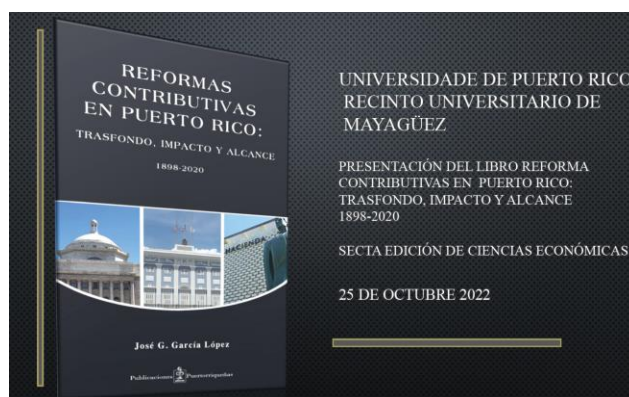
- As part of the collaborative agreement between the Department of Economics and the Puerto Rico Planning Board, several meetings will be coordinated with local and federal agencies to complete the analysis of the critical needs of the Economic and Social Planning Program.
- On Tuesday, October 4, 2022, the conference titled *The Economic Consequences of Cabotage Restrictions on Maritime and International Trade* was held by Mr. Manuel I. Jiménez Useche, economist and doctoral candidate of the Department of Agricultural Economics of the College of Agriculture of Purdue University. In addition, Dr. Russell Hillberry, Professor of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University, presented opportunities to pursue graduate studies at that university.



- The sixth edition of the Economic Sciences Week was held on October 25 and 27, 2022. The lectures offered are described below:



- Tuesday, October 25, 2022. Conference Title: *Presentation of the book entitled Tax Reforms in Puerto Rico: Backgrounds, Impact and Scope 1898-2020*. Lecturer: José G. García López. Economist, professor and retired employee of the Government Development Bank for Puerto Rico. <https://ppeditoresebooks.com/products/reformas-contributivas-en-puerto-rico>. Reaction Panel: Dr. José I. Alameda Hours: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Place: Josefina Torres Torres Amphitheater (EE-117).



- Thursday, October 27, 2022. Conference Title: *Demographic Challenge and its University Impacts in Puerto Rico*. Lecturer: Dr. Julio C. Hernández Correa, Associate Professor of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology of the UPRM. Hours: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Place: Josefina Torres Torres Amphitheater (EE-117).

- On Thursday, November 10, 2022, the Open House was held at the UPRM where high school students (grades 11th and 12th) from public and private schools received orientation about UPRM academic programs, including economics. The Department participation included the collaboration of economics students, such as Alexi Wu-He, Stephanie Sabido-Medina, Edith C. Santiago-Mercado and Derek Velázquez-López.
- On Wednesday, May 30, 2023 professor Alfredo González Martínez (founder of the Department of Economics, UPRM) was awarded with an honorary doctoral degree (Doctor Honoris Cause). The academic distinction was approved by the Board of Government of the University of Puerto Rico.



<https://www.uprm.edu/portada/2023/06/10/maximasdistincionescincocatedraticosrum/>

- On Friday, October 28, 2022 (8:30 am - 5:30 pm) the thirty-eighth Annual Assembly of the Association of Economists of Puerto Rico was held. Recognition was given to Dr. Edwin Irizarry Mora, retired professor of the Department of Economics. In addition, doctors Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez and Jeffry Valentín Mari and Professor Emilie V. Vaqueira Keller participated as lecturers. Also, María Rodríguez-Carrió and Edith C. Santiago-Mercado, seniors' students of the Department of Economics, participated as lecturers.





- On Thursday, April 20, 2023 the office of the UPRM's Chancellor approved the donation of the professional library of Dr. Alfredo González Martínez. The library eventually would be available at SH-109 in the Efrain Sanchez Hidalgo Building.
- A sharing activity was held between students, faculty, and non-teaching staff of the Department of Economics on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 11:45 a.m. at SH-309 A.



- The Department of Economics organized together with CoHemis the conference: *Alternative Pedagogical Approaches in the Teaching of Economics*. The activity took place on Thursday, March 23 in Tarzan Room at 10:30 am. Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramírez, Assistant Professor and Dr. Ivonne Diaz-Rodríguez, Professor, both from the Department of Economics, participated as main speakers.

- The Department of Economics organized the conference: *Updating Economics Curricula: The Case for the Master of Economics Program at John Jay College-CUNY*. Lecturer: Dr. Ian J. Seda Irizarry, Professor of Economics at John Jay School of Criminal Justice at CUNY. The conference was offered via Zoom on Tuesday, March 28 at 10:30 am and included the participation of Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramírez and Dr. Jeffry Valentín-Mari.
- The Department of Economics organized the conference: *Measuring the Impact of Changing Political Status on the Economy: Preliminary Findings*. Thursday, March 30, 2023 10:30 am - 12:00 pm in the Nursing Amphitheater. Lecturer: Dr. José Caraballo Cueto, Associate Professor Graduate School of Business Administration of the UPR Rio Piedras Campus.
- The Department of Economics organized the conference: *The Public Debt Crisis after Covid-19 and the War*. Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 10:30 am - 12:00 pm at the Figueroa Chapel Amphitheater. Lecturer: Dr. Martin Guzmán, Economist and researcher at the School of Business of Columbia University, Co-President (together with Dr. Joseph Stiglitz Nobel Prize in Economics 2001) of the Initiative for Policy Dialogue of Columbia University and former Minister of Economy of the Republic of Argentina (2019-2022).
- As part of efforts to mentor and recruit students, the Department of Economics participates in the second edition of the Arts and Sciences Summer Camp. The camp is organized by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and is titled "Explore Your Calling in the Arts and Sciences." It will take place from June 13 to 17, 2023. The Department of Economics is responsible for presenting on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 1:30 pm at the Ramon Figueroa Chapel Amphitheater.





- On Thursday, April 20, 2023 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, the Symposium titled *Strategies for Congestion Reduction for Puerto Rico* was held at the Civil Engineering Auditorium. Dr. Carlos del Valle González, Associate Professor, gave the conference titled *Financial Incentives to Reduce Car Travel*.
- On Tuesday, April 25, 2023, the senior students presented its research projects as part of the requirements of the course ECON 4392: Research Methods in Economics II. The activity was organized by Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramirez was held at 10:30 am in room SH-309A.
- On Thursday, April 27, 2023, the Department of Economics organized the activity of recognition of its students belonging to the 2021-2022 Honor Roll, including the students of the class of 2023 and the student deserving of the departmental award Sir Dr. William Arthur Lewis. The activity was held at 10:30 am in classroom SH-309A. It was attended by Dr. Fernando Gilbes-Santaella, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.





- On Friday, May 5, 2023, the Third Congress of Applied Economics of Puerto Rico was held. Activity organized by Dr. Julio C. Hernández Correa, Associate Professor of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology. Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor of the Department of Economics, participated as a lecturer in the congress. In addition, students of the courses of ECON 4017: Econometrics and ECON 4392: Research Methods in Economics II presented their respective research projects.

International Activity

- January 14, 2023 (San Juan): Participation in the presentation of the book "Ecosocial Pacts in Puerto Rico", published in 2021, which includes an essay "Economies for well-being: Models and strategies for a just transition" by Dr. Ivonne Diaz-Rodriguez.

Available

at

<https://pactosecosocialespr.com/ensayos/6-economias-para-el-bienestar-modelos-y-estrategias-para-una-transicion-justa/>.

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