Victor Simões Dornelas

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Education

Cornell University – PhD Candidate, Applied Economics and Management — Aug. 2022 – May 2028 (expected)

Dissertation committee: Todd Gerarden (chair), Ivan Rudik, Nicholas J. Sanders.

Research applies causal inference tools and structural modeling to questions in environmental and agricultural economics.

Lead chapter: *Demand-induced spillovers of water conservation efforts: the case of California tree nuts*.

University of São Paulo (USP) – M.S. Economics — Feb. 2017 – Jul. 2019

Advisor: Ariaster Chimeli.

Thesis: *China shock: environmental impacts in Brazil*.

University of São Paulo (USP) – B.S. Economics — Feb. 2012 – Aug. 2016

Experience

Resources for the Future (RFF) – Summer Research Intern — Jun. 2024 – Aug. 2024

- Developed research alongside RFF Fellow on the alignment between federal place-based investment programs and climate-risk exposure across U.S. underserved communities, leveraging proprietary establishment data and matching methods.

World Bank, Development Impact Evaluation Research Group (DIME) – Consultant — Jan. 2021 – Jun. 2022

- Performed data work and analysis for the impact evaluation of the Lake Victoria Transport Program, a road upgrade project financed by the Bank in Rwanda.
- Coordinated with field team to design household and firm survey instruments and produced analyses to brief task team leaders and Rwandan officials.

Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV), CLEAR Initiative – Researcher — Jul. 2018 – Sep. 2018; Mar. 2019 – Jan. 2021

- Quantified socioeconomic damages from Brazil's 2015 Mariana tailings-dam disaster for the *Projeto Rio Doce*, a study commissioned by the Federal Prosecution Office to substantiate claims against Samarco, Vale, and BHP.
- Conducted difference-in-differences and matching analyses across five dimensions (education, formal employment, migration, public security, social welfare). Co-authored six technical reports submitted as expert evidence.

Black Jaguar Foundation – External Researcher — Oct. 2019 – Mar. 2020

- Co-authored the *Green Capital* cost-benefit study for the Araguaia Biodiversity Corridor, a 10,000 km^2 reforestation initiative in the Brazilian Amazon. Results were published in *Land Use Policy* (2024).

LCA Consultores – Market Research Intern — Aug. 2015 – Jun. 2016

- Worked with Nielsen RMS scanner data in market intelligence consulting for consumer-goods firms.

Research

Peer-reviewed Publications

Lucchesi, A., Khanna, M., Pereda, P. C., Ussami, K. A., Ruggiero, P. G., Dornelas, V. S., & Lallement, T. (2024). Araguaia biodiversity corridor cost benefit analysis: Large scale restoration and sustainable agribusiness in Amazon and Cerrado. *Land Use Policy*, *141*, 107122. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2024.107122

Works in Progress

Dornelas, V. S. (2026). Demand-induced spillovers of water conservation efforts: the case of California tree nuts.

Vera, E., Dornelas, V. S., & Chimeli, A. (2026). Trading lives: firm dynamics, pollution, and mortality in the wake of the China shock.

Dornelas, V. S. (2025). What's holding back the Brazilian network of protected areas?

External Presentations

(*) Presented by co-author.

Demand-induced spillovers of water conservation efforts: the case of California tree nuts.
Scheduled: ASSA (Jan 2027 – Washington, DC); SEA (Nov 2026 – Houston, TX)
Past: CEA (May 2026 – Vancouver, BC).

Trading lives: firm dynamics, pollution, and mortality in the wake of the China shock.
Past: WCERE (Jun 2026 – Carcavelos, Portugal)*; Rede PP&S (Jun 2026 – São Paulo, Brazil)*.

China shock: environmental impacts in Brazil.
Past: EAERE (Jun 2019 – Manchester, UK).

Awards & Fellowships

Outstanding Graduate Teaching Service Award 2025
Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University.

Graduate School Fellowship Aug. 2022 – May 2023
Cornell University.

Chair of Environmental Economics Fellowship 2018 – 2019
Insper / Instituto Escolhas, a competitive private fellowship in environmental economics.

Programa de Excelência Acadêmica (Proex) Fellowship 2017
CAPES Foundation, Brazilian Ministry of Education.

4th place in Exame Anpec 2016/2017 2016
Ranked 4th of 1,370 candidates in the national admission exam for graduate studies of the Brazilian Association of Graduate Programs in Economics (Anpec). Ranked 1st in the University of São Paulo (USP) Economics M. S. program.

Additional Information

Methods: causal inference toolkit (DiD, IV, RDD, synthetic control), panel data, geospatial analysis, structural modeling.

Software: R (main), Stata, Excel, Python, QGIS, Git, Latex.

Languages: Portuguese (native), English (proficient), Spanish (intermediate).

Citizenships: Brazilian, Portuguese.