

Editorial: Experiences, Territory and Decisions

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The School of Economic and Administrative Sciences at the University of Cuenca is pleased to present issue number 44 of the journal *Economía y Política*, which features seven scholarly articles that analyze, from various methodological perspectives, some of the main economic and social challenges facing Ecuador and Latin America. Taken together, these studies share a common premise: phenomena such as violence, teenage pregnancy, environmental behavior, financial well-being, energy consumption, and local economic development are shaped by multiple factors that interact over time, manifest differently across contexts, and ultimately find expression in people's decisions. From this perspective, empirical evidence becomes a fundamental tool for understanding complex processes and informing the design of public policies.

The first central theme of this issue highlights the importance of life experiences. The research articles included here show that experiences and opportunities accumulated from an early age influence various social outcomes in later stages of life. Along these lines, Anahí Prieto, Rafael Alvarado, and Brayan Tillaguango (Multidimensional Determinants of Sexual Violence: An Econometric Approach to the Link Between Childhood and Adulthood) find that violence experienced during childhood is a significant predictor of sexual violence in adulthood, providing evidence that supports the theory of the intergenerational transmission of violence. Complementarily, Karen Elizabeth López Cusme and Silvana Maribel Báez Flores (Determinants of Intimate Partner Violence in Ecuador: Evidence from the 2019 ENVIGMU Survey) show that family violence and traditional gender roles are associated with a higher probability of experiencing intimate partner violence, highlighting the need for public policies aimed at preventing this phenomenon. Along the same lines, Wilson Israel Pangay Vallejo ("Impact of Educational Attainment on Adolescent Pregnancy: A Multilevel Analysis by Province in Ecuador for 2019") demonstrates that higher educational attainment reduces the likelihood of adolescent pregnancy, highlighting education's role as a protective factor against this problem.



The second theme unifying this issue is the importance of geography for understanding economic and social processes. The articles show that development dynamics vary by geographic context, reinforcing the need to design responses tailored to local realities. In this regard, Lester Xavier Rodríguez Cruz (Short-Term Dynamics and Forecast of Per Capita Electricity Consumption in Ecuador: Empirical Evidence Using an ARIMAX Model) analyzes the evolution of electricity consumption in Ecuador and presents projections that serve as input for energy planning. Meanwhile, Jesús Eduardo Pérez Soto, Angélica Montaña Armendáriz, Gilberto Martínez Sidón, and Juan Carlos Pérez Concha (Marginal Effects of Tourism, Gender, and Biodiversity on Local Economic Development in the Santiago Basin, Baja California Sur) show that perceptions of tourism, gender equity, and environmental impact are related to perceptions of local economic development, highlighting the importance of considering territorial particularities in development strategies.

The third common thread in this issue is the growing incorporation of behavioral factors into economic analysis. Beyond material incentives, the studies show that people's attitudes, perceptions, and awareness help explain various economic and social behaviors. Pablo Ponce and Jessica Guamán (Planned Behavior and Environmental Action: A Causal Approach for Ecuador) find that environmental awareness increases the likelihood of adopting pro-environmental practices in Ecuadorian households, supporting the role of environmental education and awareness-raising. For their part, Uziel Calderón Gormás, Jessica Rossana Mesía Mas, and Marisol Carranza Molina ("Attitudes Toward Debt and Their Relationship to the Financial Well-Being of Entrepreneurs in the San Martín Region") demonstrate a positive relationship between attitudes toward debt and the financial well-being perceived by entrepreneurs, highlighting the relevance of financial attitudes in this context.

Taken together, the articles published in this issue reflect the thematic and methodological diversity of contemporary economic research. Although they address different issues, they agree in showing that understanding economic and social challenges requires integrating people's life experiences, the specific characteristics of their regions, and the behavioral factors that influence their decisions. We hope that the findings presented in this issue will enrich the academic debate, stimulate new lines of research, and provide useful evidence for the design of public policies to develop more equitable, sustainable, and inclusive societies.