

Hugo E. Silva

January, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2025–present Associate Professor, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.
2015–2024 Assistant Professor, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.
2025– Principal Researcher, Millennium Nucleus in Just Transport.
2025– Principal Researcher, Center for Advanced Transportation, Logistics and Economic Competitiveness (CATLEC).
2015– Researcher, Bus Rapid Transit Centre of Excellence (BRT+ CoE)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics. VU University Amsterdam. 2015.
M.Sc. in Transportation Engineering. Universidad de Chile, 2010.
Professional degree in Transport Engineering. Universidad de Chile, 2010.

PUBLICATIONS

Optimal pricing of flights and passengers at congested airports and the efficiency of atomistic charges, **Journal of Public Economics**, **2013**, **106**, 1–13. (with Erik T. Verhoef)

Airlines' strategic interactions and airport pricing in a dynamic bottleneck model of congestion, **Journal of Urban Economics**, **2014** **80**, 13–27. (with Erik T. Verhoef and Vincent A.C. van den Berg)

Airlines' route structure competition and network policy, **Transportation Research Part B**, **2014**, **67**, 320–343. (with Erik T. Verhoef and Vincent A.C. van den Berg)

Efficiency and Substitutability of Transit Subsidies and Other Urban Transport Policies, **American Economic Journal: Economic Policy**, **2014**, **6**(4), 1–33. (with Leonardo J. Basso)

On the Existence and Uniqueness of Equilibrium in the Bottleneck Model with Atomic Users. **Transportation Science**, **2017**, **51**(3), 863–881. (with Robin Lindsey, André de Palma and Vincent A.C. van den Berg)

Dynamic equilibrium at a congestible facility under market power. **Transportation Research Part B: Methodological**, **2017**, **105**, 174–192. (with Erik T. Verhoef)

Equilibrium in the bottleneck model with atomic and non-atomic users **Transportation Research Part B: Methodological**, **2019**, **124**, 82–107. (with Robin Lindsey and André de Palma)

The efficiency of bus rapid transit (BRT) systems: A dynamic congestion approach. **Transportation Research Part B: Methodological** **2019**, **127**, 47–71 (with Leonardo J. Basso and Fernando Feres).

The impact of fare-free public transport on travel behavior: evidence from a randomized controlled trial, **Regional Science and Urban Economics** **2021**, **86** (with Owen Bull and Juan Carlos Muñoz).

Public transport and urban structure. **Economics of Transportation 2021** (with Leonardo J. Basso and Matías Navarro).

Team-based incentives in transportation firms: An experiment **Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice. 2022, 164, 1–12** (with Vicente Ramirez, Patricia Galilea, Joaquin Poblete).

Fare Evasion in Public Transport: How does it affect the optimal design and pricing? **Transportation Research Part B: Methodological, 2023, 176** (with Raúl Ramos).

Maximization of equilibrium utility vs minimization of resources in the urban equilibrium (with Raúl Pezoa and Leonardo Basso). **Economics Letters, 240, 111772.**

The efficiency of bus priority infrastructure (with Felipe González). **Journal of Urban Economics. 2025**

Public transport subsidies and the marginal cost of public funds: an interpretative review (with Raúl Ramos). **Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice. 2026.**

BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

The economics of airports' pricing. In **Handbook on Transport Pricing and Financing, 2023**, Pages 207-228, Edward Elgar Publishing. (with Tiziana D'Alfonso, Martina Gregori, and Leonardo J. Basso)

The Mohring Effect. In **International Encyclopedia of Transportation, 2021**, Pages 263-266, Elsevier.

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2024–2028 Principal Investigator, Research Project “The efficiency of urban transportation policies”. Research grant 1241734, FONDECYT Regular, Chile.
- 2023–2027 Co-Investigator, Research Project “Régimen Urbanístico Chileno: Análisis Socio-Jurídico de su Diseño y Práctica Institucional”. Research grant 1230839, FONDECYT Regular, Chile.
- 2020–2024 Principal Investigator, Research Project “Optimal Departure from Marginal Cost Pricing of Transport Externalities”. Research grant 1200801, FONDECYT Regular, Chile.
- 2019–2021 Co-Investigator, Research Project “Externalities, income segregation and the structure of cities: the role of transport policies”. Research grant 1191010, FONDECYT Regular, Chile.
- 2016–2019 Principal Investigator, Research Project “Regulation of airports: permits and taxes in the presence of market power and negative externalities”. Research grant 11160294, FONDECYT Iniciación, Chile.

CONSULTING

- 2024-2025 **Efficiency of public transport subsidization in the Metropolitan Area of Buenos Aires.**
 - Client: IADB (BID)
 - Objectives: Evaluation of the effectiveness, competitiveness, and substitutability of demand-side and supply-side public transport subsidies. Economic welfare analysis based on the inference of consumer surplus.
- 2023 **Financial and economics analysis of the proposed bidding terms and concession contracts for the Santiago Public Transportation System.**
 - Client: Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications

- Objectives: Specialized economic and financial advice for the 2023 bidding process to ensure it promotes competition and responsible use of public resources. Analyze aspects related to free competition and regulation, and the elements that could potentially become an obstacle or discourage the submission of bids. These elements include compliance indicators, service quality discounts, or incentives to reduce evasion.
- 2022 **Quantitative analysis of urban transport policies.**
 - Client: IADB (BID)
 - Objectives: Study the distributional impacts and efficiency of subsidizing public transport, investing on Bus Rapid Transit and subways, and implementing car congestion pricing in Latin American cities.
- 2021-2022 **Analysis of the regulation and externalities in the Salmon Aquaculture Industry in Chile.**
 - Client: Consejo del Salmón (Salmon Council), Chile
 - Objectives: provide expert and independent report regarding the current regulation and its comparison with regulation in Scotland, Norway and Canada. To estimate the effects of the regulations on externalities and its costs.
- 2018-2019 **Expert Report on the potential impact of current regulation, infrastructure and contracts on the performance of Transantiago operators.**
 - Client: Dirección General de Relaciones Económicas Internacionales - DIRECON, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Chile
 - Objectives: provide expert and independent report regarding the impact of the current regulation, infrastructure and contracts on the performance of Transantiago operators to complement the Respondent’s Counter-Memorial and Rejoinder for the Tribunal of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)
 - Hearing: Participation as expert on the Hearing of the Merits at the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) at London.
- 2018 **Economic and Anticompetitive Effects of a Fleet-Fixing Agreement Between Urban Public Transport Firms**
 - Objective: provide expert and independent opinion regarding the anticompetitive effects of the agreement, in order to offer the Honorable Tribunal de Defensa de la Libre Competencia de Chile (TDLC) with additional perspectives that may be helpful in resolving the case.
 - Client: Fiscalía Nacional Económica, Chile

AWARDS AND OTHER GRANTS

- 2017 Professor Piet Rietveld Award. Best doctoral dissertation in the area of transport research given by the Benelux Interuniversity Association of Transport Researchers (BIVIC-GIBET).
- 2014 Best paper by a Ph.D. student in the Symposium of the European Association for Research in Transportation. Paper: “Input third-degree price discrimination by congestible facilities”.
Ph.D Scholarship “Becas-Chile”. Awarded free tuition.
- 2012 European Aviation Economics and Management Prize for best paper in the annual GARS workshop. Paper “Airlines’ strategic interactions and airport pricing in a dynamic bottleneck model of congestion” (with Erik Verhoef and Vincent van den Berg).

Second Prize, Best paper in Kuhmo Nectar Conference on Transportation Economics. Paper “Airlines’ strategic interactions and airport pricing in a dynamic bottleneck model of congestion” (with Erik Verhoef and Vincent van den Berg).
- 2011 Prize *Colegio de Ingenieros de Chile* (College of Engineers of Chile) to the best new Civil Engineer from Universidad de Chile.

Second Prize, Best paper in Kuhmo Nectar Conference on Transportation Economics. Paper “Efficiency and Complementarity of Transit Subsidies and Other Urban Transport Policies” (with Leonardo Basso).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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| 2016–present | Lecturer: Microeconomics I, Microeconomics II, Transport Economics, and Topics in Urban Economics, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. |
| 2012–2015 | Lecturer: Transport Economics, VU University. |
| 2010 | TA: Competition and Regulation in Transport Markets, Universidad de Chile. |
| 2009 | TA: Transport Demand, Universidad de Chile. |
| 2008-2009 | TA: Transport Systems Analysis, Universidad de Chile. |

PH.D. STUDENTS

Fernando Feres, Ph.D. in Engineering Science, Universidad de Chile (2020)

Raúl Pezoa, Ph.D. in Engineering Science, Universidad de Chile (2023)

Raúl Ramos, Ph.D. in Engineering Science, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (2026)

SELECTED ACADEMIC AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

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| 2017-2018 | Consejo Consultivo Asesor de Estrategia y Planificación del Directorio de Transporte Público Metropolitano (DTPM). Member in representation of the Faculties of Engineering and Economics, Chile. |
| 2022-2023 | Created a collaboration agreement between the University and the Metropolitan Public Transport Board (DTPM) to promote research applied to real problems of the city. |
| 2023— | Member of the Scientific Committee of the International Transportation Economics Association. |
| 2026— | Member of the Executive Committee of the International Transportation Economics Association. |
| 2026— | Editorial Board of the journal Economics of Transportation. |
| Refereeing | <i>American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Journal of Urban Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, International Economic Review, Economic Inquiry, International Journal of Industrial Organization, RAND Journal of Economics, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Transportation Science, Transportation Research Part A, Transportation Research Part B, Transportation Research Part E, Economics of Transportation, Transportation Policy.</i> |
| Reviewer | FONDECYT Regular and Iniciación (2014, 2016–present). Research funding program from the National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT) of the Chilean government. |

INVITED SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES (SELECTED)

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| 2025 | 14th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Berlin) |
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	May RIDGE Forum (Labor workshop, Lima)
2024	18th Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Washington) 2024 7th Workshop on Urban Economics, Barcelona Institute of Economics (IEB) Annual Conference of the International Transportation Economics Association (Leeds).
2023	17th Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Toronto) Annual Conference of the International Transportation Economics Association (Santander, Spain).
2022	16th Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Washington DC)
2021	Annual Conference of the International Transportation Economics Association
2020	15th Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Virtual)
2019	14th Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Philadelphia)
2018	Annual Conference of the International Transportation Economics Association (Hong-Kong); XX Pan-American Conference of Traffic and Transportation Engineering (Medellín, Colombia); Centre for Transport Studies, Department of Civil Engineering, Imperial College London, 2018
2017	Annual Conference of the International Transportation Economics Association (IEB, Barcelona); PUJ/Banrep Workshop on Urban and Regional Economics (Bogotá); 13th International Conference of the Western Economic Association International (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile); Encuentro Anual SECHI (Universidad de Talca, Chile); XVIII Congreso Chileno de Ingeniería en Transporte (La Serena); Departamento Economía, FEN, Universidad Alberto Hurtado
2016	Annual Conference of the International Transportation Economics Association (Faculty of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Universidad de Chile); Departamento Economía, FEN, Universidad de Chile
2015	Annual Conference of the International Transportation Economics Association (The Institute of Transport Economics, Oslo), XVII Congreso Chileno de Ingeniería en Transporte (Universidad del Bío-Bío, Concepción).
2014	German Aviation Research Society workshop (Amsterdam), Symposium of the European Association for Research in Transportation (ITS Leeds).
2013	Annual Conference of the International Transportation Economics Association (Northwestern University), 17th Air Transport Research Society World conference (University of Bergamo), XII NECTAR International Conference (University of Azores), XVI Congreso Chileno de Ingeniería en Transporte (Universidad de Chile).
2012	XVII Pan-American Conference of Traffic and Transportation Engineering (Universidad de los Andes, Chile), Annual Conference of the International Transportation Economics Association (DIW Berlin), Annual German Aviation Research Society workshop (University of Applied Sciences, Bremen).
2011	Annual Conference of the International Transportation Economics Association (CTS, Stockholm).
2010	Encuentro Anual de la Sociedad de Economía de Chile (Universidad de Talca).