

# Author's Preface

Completing this research project was only possible through the support of many people, and I would like to thank all of them here.

I express my sincere gratitude to my first supervisor, Professor Stephan Klasen, for accepting me as a doctoral student at the Chair of Development Economics and for his constant support and excellent guidance. I benefited a lot from his expertise as a development economist and as an econometrician, and I really enjoyed working with him.

I wish to thank my second supervisor, Professor Walter Zucchini, for his friendly help, permanent encouragement and advice. He is not only a brilliant man, but also a great teacher and a very supportive person.

Professor Inmaculada Martínez-Zarzoso was the third member of my dissertation committee, and I thank her very much for her time, stimulating questions and suggestions.

Doing research in Göttingen was a valuable experience for me, and allowed me to interact and work with many nice colleagues at the Chair of Development Economics, the Ibero-America Institute for Economic Research, the Courant Research Centre "Poverty, Equity and Growth in Developing Countries", the Institute for Statistics and Econometrics, and the Centre for Statistics. My sincere thanks go to all of them, especially to my co-authors Maria Ziegler and Adriana Cardozo. Carola Grün, Michael Grimm, Felicitas Nowak-Lehmann, and Axel Dreher, among others, provided useful comments to some of the essays in this book.

In addition, comments from participants of seminars, workshops and conferences in Berlin, Galway, Göttingen, Hannover, La Paz, Mannheim, Montevideo, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Rome, Sevilla and Tokyo helped improving this book.

Friends and family are very important in my life. I would like to acknowledge their help along the road during these years. I owe my loving thanks to my parents, brothers, and grandparents for always believing in me and continuously encouraging me to reach my goals.

Finally, my deepest and warmest thanks go to my wife Gabriela and my sons Alexander and Santiago for the love they bring into my life, their unconditional support and great patience during this process.

Funding for this research project through a Georg-Christoph Lichtenberg scholarship provided by the Ministry of Science and Culture of Lower-Saxony and granted by the Centre for Statistics at the University of Göttingen is gratefully acknowledged.

**Boris Branisa Caballero**  
Göttingen, November 2011

# Contents

<b>Editor's Preface</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>Author's Preface</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>List of Tables</b>	<b>xvii</b>
<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>xxi</b>
<b>List of Abbreviations</b>	<b>xxiii</b>
<b>Introduction and Overview</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>I Social institutions and gender inequality</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1 The Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1 Introduction . . . . .	8
1.2 The Database . . . . .	10
1.3 Construction of the Subindices . . . . .	12
1.3.1 Measuring the Association between Categorical Variables . . . . .	12
1.3.2 Aggregating Variables to Build a Subindex . . . . .	14
1.4 The Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) . . . . .	15
1.5 Results . . . . .	18
1.5.1 Country Rankings and Regional Patterns . . . . .	18
1.5.2 Simple Correlation with other Gender-related Indices . . . . .	20
1.5.3 Regression Analysis . . . . .	21
1.6 Conclusion . . . . .	22
1.7 Tables . . . . .	24
1.8 Figures . . . . .	43

<b>2</b>	<b>Why care about social inst. related to gender ineq.</b>	<b>49</b>
2.1	Introduction . . . . .	50
2.2	Social Institutions and Household Decisions . . . . .	53
2.2.1	Social Institutions and Female Education . . . . .	54
2.2.2	Social Institutions and Fertility and Child Mortality Rates . . . . .	55
2.3	Social Institutions and the Society: Governance . . . . .	57
2.4	Data . . . . .	57
2.5	Empirical estimation and Results . . . . .	60
2.5.1	Empirical estimation . . . . .	60
2.5.2	Results . . . . .	62
2.6	Conclusion . . . . .	65
2.7	Tables . . . . .	67
<b>3</b>	<b>Reexamining the link between gender and corruption</b>	<b>79</b>
3.1	Introduction . . . . .	80
3.2	Empirical Estimation and Results . . . . .	83
3.2.1	Data . . . . .	83
3.2.2	Empirical Estimation . . . . .	87
3.2.3	Results . . . . .	89
3.3	Conclusion . . . . .	91
3.4	Tables . . . . .	93
3.5	Figures . . . . .	101
<b>II</b>	<b>Regional growth convergence in Colombia</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Regional convergence in Colombia: Income indicators</b>	<b>105</b>
4.1	Introduction . . . . .	106
4.2	Motivation and Background . . . . .	107
4.2.1	Economic Background . . . . .	107
4.2.2	Data Issues Affecting Convergence Results in Colombia . . . . .	111
4.3	The Solow Model and Its Estimation . . . . .	114
4.3.1	The Solow Model . . . . .	114
4.3.2	Absolute Beta-Convergence . . . . .	115
4.3.3	Conditional Convergence . . . . .	116
4.3.4	Parameter Heterogeneity: Are There Different Steady States? . . . . .	117
4.3.5	Sigma-Convergence . . . . .	118
4.4	Distributional Approach: Quah's Critique . . . . .	119

4.5	Empirical Estimation and Results . . . . .	121
4.5.1	Sigma-Convergence . . . . .	121
4.5.2	Absolute Beta-Convergence . . . . .	121
4.5.3	Conditional Beta-Convergence Using Control Variables . . . . .	122
4.5.4	Beta-Convergence Using Time-Series Cross-Sectional Data . . . . .	122
4.5.5	Kernel Density Estimators . . . . .	127
4.6	Conclusions . . . . .	128
4.7	Tables . . . . .	132
4.8	Figures . . . . .	146
<b>5</b>	<b>Regional convergence in Colombia: Social indicators</b>	<b>161</b>
5.1	Introduction . . . . .	162
5.2	Motivation . . . . .	163
5.3	Methods for Measuring Convergence . . . . .	166
5.4	Data and Empirical Estimation . . . . .	168
5.4.1	Data . . . . .	168
5.4.2	Empirical estimation . . . . .	169
5.5	Results . . . . .	171
5.5.1	Literacy Rate . . . . .	172
5.5.2	Infant Survival Rate . . . . .	173
5.5.3	Life Expectancy at Birth . . . . .	174
5.5.4	Nourishment . . . . .	175
5.6	Conclusions . . . . .	175
5.7	Tables . . . . .	180
5.8	Figures . . . . .	187
	<b>Appendices</b>	<b>203</b>
	Appendix to Essay 1 . . . . .	205
	<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>211</b>

