

Curriculum Vitae

Flávio Cunha
Department of Economics and Texas Policy Lab
Rice University
Houston, TX 77251-1892
Telephone: 713-348-3312
E-mail: Flavio.Cunha@rice.edu

Education:

2007: Ph.D. (Economics) at the University of Chicago, Chicago, USA.
2000: M.Sc. (Economics) at Fundação Getúlio Vargas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
1994: BA (Economics) at Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

Employment:

July/2019 – Ervin K. Zingler Chair, William Marsh Rice University.
July/2017 – June/2019: Professor, Rice University.
July/2014 – June/2017: Associate Professor, Rice University.
July/2008 – June/2014: Assistant Professor, The University of Pennsylvania.
July/2007 – June/2008: Lecturer, The University of Pennsylvania.

Other Positions

July/2022 – Department Chair, Rice University
July/2019 – June/2023: Visiting Professor, briq Institute on Behavior and Inequality.
July/2014 – HCEO Network Leader (Early Childhood Interventions and Family Inequality).
July/2008 – Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research.
July/2007 – Research Associate, Population Studies Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

Published and Forthcoming Papers:

Rule, A., Ma, Zhang, X., Pappas, L., Rule, A., Gao, Y., Dill, S., Feng, T., Zhang, Y. Wang, H. Y., Cunha, F., and Rozelle, S. (2024). Does Urbanization Close the 30-Million Word Gap? A LENA Study from Rural and Peri-Urban China, *Child Development*, Vol. 95(2), e74-e92.

Cunha, F., Gerdes, M., Hu, Q., Nihtianova, S. (2023) Language Environment and Maternal Expectations: An Evaluation of the LENA Start Program, forthcoming, *Journal of Human Capital*.

Wang, F., Puentes, E., Behrman, J., Cunha, F. (2023). You are What Your Parents Think: Height and Local Reference Points, forthcoming, *Journal of Econometrics*.

Cunha, F., Nielsen, E., Williams, B. (2022). The Econometrics of Early Childhood Human Capital and Investments, *Annual Review of Economics*, Vol. 13(1), 515-538.

Cunha, F., Elo, I., Culhane, J. (2021). Maternal Subjective Expectations about the Technology of Skill Formation Predict Investments in Children One Year Later, In Press, *Journal of Econometrics*.

Bailey, D., Duncan, G., Cunha, F., Foorman, B., and Yeager, D. (2021). Persistence and Fade-Out of Educational-Intervention Effects: Mechanisms and Potential Solutions, *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, Vol. 21(2), pp. 55-97.

Puentes, E., Cunha, F., Adair, L., Borja, J., Hoddinott, J., Malluccio, J., Martorell, R., Stein, A., and Behrman, J. Early Life Height and Weight Production Functions with Endogenous Energy and Protein Inputs. (2016). *Economics and Biology*, Vol. 22(2), pp. 65–81.

- Cunha, F., and Heckman, J. J. (2016). Decomposing Trends in Inequality in Earnings into Forecastable and Uncertain Components. (2016). *Journal of Labor Economics*, Vol. 34(S2), pp. 31-65.
- Cunha, F. (2014). Subjective Rationality, Parenting Styles, and Investments in Children. In P. Amato, A. Booth, S. McHale, & J. Van Hook (Eds.), *Diverging destinies: Families in an era of increasing inequality*, Chapter 2, pp. 45-55, New York: Springer.
- Cunha, F., Karahan, F., and Soares, I. (2011). Returns to Skills and the College Premium, *Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking*, Vol 43(1S1), pp. 39-86.
- Cunha, F. (2011). Recent Developments in the Estimation of Production Functions of Skills, *Fiscal Studies*, Vol. 32(2), pp. 297-316.
- Cunha, F., Heckman, J. J., and Schennach, S. M. (2010). Estimating the Technology of Cognitive and Non-Cognitive Skill Formation, *Econometrica*, Vol. 78(3), pp. 883-931.
- Cunha, F., and Heckman, J. J. (2010). Investing in our Young People, in A. Reynolds, ed., *Cost-Effective Early Childhood Programs in the First Decade: A Human Capital Integration*, Chapter 18, pp. 381-414, New York: Cambridge University Press, (with James Heckman).
- Cunha, F., and Heckman, J. J. (2009). Human Capital Formation in Childhood and Adolescence, *CESifo Journal for Institutional Comparisons*, Vol. 7(4), pp. 22-28.
- Cunha, F. (2009). Crossing the Finish Line: A Review Article, *Journal of Human Capital*, Vol. 3(4), pp. 354-378.
- Araujo A., Cunha, F., Heckman, J. J., Moura, R. (2009). Early Childhood Education and its Importance in Reducing Violence, in F. Giambiagi, R. Henriques, S. Pessoa, and F. Velloso, eds., *Educação Básica no Brasil: Construindo um Futuro Melhor*, Chapter 5, pp. 95-116, Rio de Janeiro: Elsevier, (in Portuguese).
- Cunha, F., and Heckman, J. J. (2009). The Economics and Psychology of Inequality and Human Development, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, Vol. 7(2-3), pp. 1-48.
- Cunha, F., and Heckman, J. J. (2008). Formulating, Identifying, and Estimating the Technology for the Formation of Skills, *Journal of Human Resources*, Vol. 43(4), pp. 738-782.
- Cunha, F., and Heckman, J. J. (2008). A Framework for the Analysis of Inequality, *Macroeconomic Dynamics*, Vol. 12(S2), pp. 315-354.
- Cunha, F., and Heckman, J. J. (2007). Identifying and Estimating the Distributions of Ex Post and Ex Ante Returns to Schooling: A Survey of Recent Developments, *Labour Economics*, Vol. 14(6), pp. 870-893.
- Cunha, F., Heckman, J. J., and Navarro, S. (2007). The Identification and Economic Content of Ordered Choice Models with Stochastic Cutoffs, *International Economic Review*, Vol. 48(4), pp. 1273-1309.
- Cunha, F., and Heckman, J. J. (2007). The Technology of Skill Formation, *American Economic Review P&P*, Vol. 97(2), pp. 31-47.
- Cunha, F., Heckman, J. J., Lochner, L., and Masterov, D. (2006). Interpreting the Evidence on Life Cycle Skill Formation, in E. Hanushek and F. Welch, eds., *The Handbook of Economics of Education*, Chapter 12, pp. 697-812; Amsterdam: North Holland.
- Cunha, F., Heckman, J. J., and Navarro, S. (2006). Counterfactual Analysis of Inequality and Social Mobility, in G. Fields, D. Grusky and S. Morgan eds., *Mobility and Inequality: Frontiers of Research from Sociology and Economics*, Chapter 4, pp. 290-346, Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.
- Cunha, F., Heckman, J. J., and Navarro, S. (2005). Separating Uncertainty from Heterogeneity in Life Cycle Earnings, *Oxford Economic Papers*, Vol. 57(2), pp. 191-261.

Working Papers:

Attanasio, O., Cunha, F., and Jervis, P. (2019). Subjective Parental Beliefs: Their Measurement and Role, NBER Working Paper 26516 (submitted).

Cunha, F., Hu, Q., Salvati, A., Wolpin, K., and Zeng, R. (2021). An Evaluation of the Alief Independent School District Jump Start Program: Using a Model to Recover Mechanisms from an RCT.

Cunha, F., Hu, Q., Xia, Y., and Zha, N. (2023). Reducing Bullying: Evidence from a Parental Involvement Program on Empathy Education. NBER Working Paper 30827 (submitted).

Cunha, F. and Lee, M. (2023). One Says Goodbye, Another Says Hello: Recruitment and Retention in the ECE Workforce, NBER Working Paper 31869.

Cunha, F., Lee, J. Y., Sethi, R. (2024). If You Build It, They Will Come: A Demand Analysis of Household-Level Childcare Choices. Texas Policy Lab Working Paper.

Cunha, F., Hu, Q., Wolpin, K., and Zeng, R. (2024). On The Measurement of Investments: Adult-Child Verbal Interactions. Texas Policy Lab Working Paper.

Partnership Research Products

Bouek, J., Rood, J., Nihtianova, S., Cunha, F. (2024). Early Education Registered Apprentice Program, Final Report for the Texas Workforce Commission.

Bouek, J., Lee, J., Rood, J., Nihtianova, S., Cunha, F. (2024). Shared Services Alliances Program, Final Report for the Texas Workforce Commission.

Bouek, J., Cunha, F., Nihtianova, S. (2024). Pre-K Partnership Expansion Initiative, Final Report for the Texas Workforce Commission.

Awards:

2014: Frisch Medal Award for "Estimating the Elasticity of Intertemporal Substitution in the Formation of Cognitive and Non-cognitive Skills," *Econometrica*, 78(3), 883-931, jointly authored with James Heckman and Susanne Schennach.

2023: Aigner Award for "Maternal subjective expectations about the technology of skill formation predict investments in children one year later," *Journal of Econometrics*, 231(1), 3-32, jointly authored with Irma Elo and Jennifer Culhane.

Sponsored Research:

2024:

Episcopal Health Foundation: Serve and Return: Implementation and Evaluation of a Scalable Parenting Program. \$184,625

2023:

Brown Foundation: Interventions to Increase the Language Environment in Home-Based Programs. \$120,000.

Powell Foundation: "Early Childhood Interventions in Texas." \$300,000.

Texas Workforce Commission: "Evaluation of the Childcare Business Coaching Program, Year 3." Direct Costs: \$240,000.

2022:

Powell Foundation: "Assessing Childcare Programs." \$200,000.

Texas Workforce Commission: "Evaluation of the Child Care Initiatives." \$1,084,000.

Samuels Family Foundation: "Capacity Building to Deliver Parenting Programs in Harris County, TX." \$100,000

Texas Workforce Commission: "Evaluation of the Childcare Business Coaching Program, Year 2." \$600,000.

Brown Foundation: "Capacity Building to Deliver Parenting Programs in Harris County, TX." \$120,000.

2021:

First3Years: "An Assessment of the Early Childhood Landscape in Houston, TX." \$45,000.

Texas Workforce Commission: "Evaluation of the Childcare Business Coaching Program." \$483,000.

2020:

Samuels Family Foundation: "Can a Scalable Parenting Program Improve Children's Readiness for School? An Evaluation of the LENA Start Program." \$100,000.

2019:

Houston Endowment: "Early Childhood Projects in Harris County." \$464,197.

Powell Foundation: Program implementation funds for "Can a Scalable Parenting Program Improve Children's Readiness for School? An Evaluation of the LENA Start Program." \$106,600.

Smith Richardson Foundation: Program evaluation funds for "Can a Scalable Parenting Program Improve Children's Readiness for School? An Evaluation of the LENA Start Program." Direct costs: \$233,717.

2016:

Evaluation of the Alief Independent School District Jumpstart Program, Arnold Foundation, \$499,029, Co-PI with Kenneth I. Wolpin.

Evaluation of the Food Scholarship Program at Lone Star College and San Jacinto College, Arnold Foundation, \$476,632, Co-PI with Kenneth I. Wolpin.

2013:

Institute for Research on Poverty Grant for "What Job Characteristics do Mothers of Very Young Children Value the Most?" \$17,000.00.

2012:

NIH R01 Grant for the "Philadelphia Human Development Study", Waves 1 to 3. Total direct costs \$2,332,803.00

2011:

INET Project Grant for "Eliciting Maternal Beliefs about the Technology of Skill Formation." Total direct costs: \$164,745.00

NICHD-PARC Project Grant. \$20,000.00

2008:

NICHD-PSC Project Grant. \$20,000.00

Doctoral Advising:
Thesis Advisor of:

2025: (Expected) Ji-Hee Lee and Ritika Sethi.
2024: Marcos Lee and Qinyou Hu (Co-advisor with Rossella Calvi).
2023: Hira Farooqi (Co-advisor with Rossella Calvi) and Rabia Telli.
2022: Ajinkya Keskar (Co-advisor with Rossella Calvi) and Andrea Salvati.
2020: Mehreen Gul and Bolun Li.
2017: Nick Frazier and Zoe Pham
2015: Fan Wang

Thesis Committee Member of:

2024: Yu-Kuan Chen.
2016: Margareth McKeehan.
2015: Diego Amador Osuna.
2014: Nicolas Grau, Lingwen Huang, and Eun-Young Shim.
2013: Pilar Alcade.
2012: Drew Griffen, Karam Kang, Fatih Karahan.
2011: Ellie Harvil and David Mann-Podrasky.
2009: Marco Cosconati.

Other Activities:

2021-2026: Magister, Wiess College, Rice University
2020-2024: Member, US National Assessment of Educational Progress Questionnaire Standing Committee.
2016-2020: Member of NIH Social Sciences and Population Studies Study Section B.