



Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Seminarios de la Unidad de Historia Económica 2016 – 17

Miércoles 22 de marzo de 2017

Aula B3-112C, 14.15 H.

María José Fuentes presenta

"The evolution of education in Colombia 1900-1958: new evidence from a regional level approach"

Abstract: Human capital is considered one of the key determinants of development. Many theorists claim that education is crucial for economic development because it enhances the performance of many workers and improves technological progress. This investigation focuses on the evolution of education in Colombia during the first half of the 20th century. Colombia was a country characterized by large economic, ethnic, cultural and geographical differences, which experienced relevant economic, institutional and social changes in the first half of the 20th century. This period was characterized by a solid administrative decentralization, strong conflicts between the two main political parties – liberals and conservatives –, and great inequality in land distribution. This investigation investigates political and institutional aspects like the different reforms implanted, the colonial past, and the role the catholic church played in the expansion of the education from a regional perspective, offering new evidence about the causes for educational backwardness and its internal inequalities since the beginning of the 20th century. This study will allow to address several debates on the determinants of education within Latin American countries.

María José Fuentes: PhD student in Economic History at the University of Barcelona. This research is funded by the Colombian Government through the Colciencias Scholarship Program No. 728.