

WHO IS WRITING THE ECONOMIC HISTORY OF LATIN AMERICA IN THE 21ST CENTURY?

¿QUIÉN ESCRIBE LA HISTORIA ECONÓMICA DE AMÉRICA LATINA EN EL SIGLO XXI?

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Abstract

Approximately 5% of the articles published in the leading international academic journals of economic history focus on Latin America, a figure that has remained relatively stable over the past 25 years. This article examines who has authored these publications between 2000 and 2024, analyzing whether they were the result of individual or collaborative efforts, as well as the gender distribution, the countries in which authors' institutions are located, and the national origins of the researchers. We also explore the distribution of articles by country and historical period, along with the citation patterns these publications have received. Our findings reveal that just over 43% of economic historians who published on Latin America during this period were affiliated with institutions within the region, while approximately 55% were of Latin American origin. This suggests that around 20% of Latin American economic historians are working from institutions outside their home countries, reflecting a notable academic diaspora. Among non-Latin American contributors, Spanish and US-based scholars are the most active in publishing on the region. However, fewer than one-third of their articles involve collaboration with Latin American researchers, despite the potential benefits such partnerships could offer in terms of knowledge exchange, contextual understanding, and academic development.

Keywords: Latin America, Economic History, high impact, scientific colonialism

JEL Codes: N00, N01, N36, Z00

Resumen

Aproximadamente el 5 % de los artículos publicados en las principales revistas académicas internacionales de historia económica se centran en América Latina, una proporción que se mantuvo estable durante los últimos 25 años. Este artículo examina quiénes han sido los autores de estas publicaciones entre 2000 y 2024, analizando si se trata de trabajos individuales o colaborativos, así como la distribución por género, los países en los que se ubican las instituciones de afiliación de los autores y el origen nacional de los investigadores. También exploramos la distribución de los artículos por país y periodo histórico, junto con los patrones de citación que han recibido estas publicaciones. Nuestros resultados muestran que el 43 % de los historiadores económicos que publicaron sobre América Latina estaban afiliados a instituciones dentro de la región, y el 55 % eran de origen latinoamericano. Esto sugiere que alrededor del 20 % de los historiadores económicos latinoamericanos trabajan desde instituciones fuera de sus países de origen. Entre los autores no latinoamericanos, los investigadores con afiliación en España y Estados Unidos han sido los más activos. Sin embargo, menos de un tercio de sus artículos incluye colaboración con investigadores latinoamericanos, a pesar de los beneficios potenciales que tales asociaciones podrían aportar.

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Introduction

At the VIII Latin American Congress of Economic History (CLADHE), held from December 3 to 5, 2024, in Montevideo, Uruguay, hundreds of scholars engaged in research on the region were in attendance. It is therefore unsurprising that the event program features frequent references to countries in the region—primarily in relation to researchers' institutional affiliations and the titles of their presentations³. Specifically, the word “Uruguay” appears 126 times, “Argentina” appears 210 times, “Mexico” 80 times, and “Colombia” 53 times. However, what is perhaps more surprising is that the word “Spain” appears 89 times, while “United States” appears 11 times. This raises an important question: why are so many economic historians researching Latin America affiliated with institutions located outside the region? More fundamentally, who is writing the economic history of Latin America in the twenty-first century?

This is a question that has received limited attention in the literature (Blum and Colvin, 2018). Numerous studies have addressed the past, present, and future of economic history as a discipline (Whaples, 1991; Romer, 1994; Waldenström, 2005; Baten and Muschallik, 2012; Jones et al., 2012; Abramitzky, 2015; Collins, 2015; Mitchener, 2015; Angrist et al., 2017; Reckendrees, 2017; Diebolt and Hupert, 2021). Scholars have also reflected on the challenges currently facing the field (Waldenström, 2005; Boldizzoni, 2011; Fourie and Gardner, 2014; Lamoreaux, 2015), as well as its defining characteristics and the interplay between supply and demand in shaping its development (Whaples, 2002; Poelmans and Rousseau, 2016). Yet, little attention has been paid to who is producing the most influential research in the field, particularly in the context of Latin America.

The aim of this article is to investigate who has written the economic history of Latin America in the twenty-first century, as published in leading international journals; which countries and periods have been most frequently studied; and from which institutional and geographic locations this research has been conducted. The findings offer a novel perspective on how knowledge about the region has been constructed in recent decades and what future trends might be anticipated.

To conduct this analysis, we developed the LATAM-EH Database, accessible on Zenodo via DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.15107041](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15107041). The database includes all articles published between 2000 and 2024 in seven leading journals (see the following section for journal selection criteria), categorized by journal, volume, issue, and region of study. It also includes a detailed breakdown of articles focusing on Latin America and the authors who contributed to them over the 25-year period. Additional variables include the number of authors, as well as their gender, institutional affiliation, and nationality.

This study pays particular attention to the national origins and institutional affiliations of scholars to assess the strength of the Latin American economic history community and the extent of its international diaspora. It also examines the role of scholars based outside the region who conduct research on Latin America, and the degree to which they collaborate with Latin American researchers. Thus, this is not merely a study of author profiles—it also seeks to understand the broader question of the role of native scholars in shaping the historiography of their own region, with a view toward enhancing their visibility and impact in the field.

This study is structured as follows. The next section outlines the data sources and methodology and situates Latin American economic history within the broader global research trends and traces its evolution over time. Section 2 analyzes the internal distribution of research by country, historical period, and number of authors. Section 3 identifies the most prolific authors and explores their characteristics, including gender, country of origin, institutional affiliation and associated research centers. Section 4 investigates the extent to which non-regional researchers contribute to the field and assesses the degree of collaboration between international and Latin American scholars. Section 5 examines the scholarly

3 Downloadable at <https://cladhe.wordpress.com/cronograma-y-horarios>

impact of research on Latin America, measured through citation patterns by journal, country, and author. The final section presents the main findings and conclusions.

1. Selected journals and the representation of Latin American research

This study builds on the methodological foundations laid by previous authors (Seltzer, 2018; Fourie, 2019; Fernández-de-Pinedo et al., 2023; Frederick et al., 2024), while expanding their scope, by focusing on publications from seven international academic journals, none of which are based in Latin America. All selected journals have maintained a longstanding presence in the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) of the Journal Citation Reports (JCR), ensuring both their academic credibility and global visibility.

Our analysis centers on the five most prestigious and widely recognized journals in the field of economic history, commonly referred to as the “Big Five”: *Cliometrica*, *The Economic History Review*, *The European Review of Economic History*, *Explorations in Economic History*, and *The Journal of Economic History*. Although *Cliometrica* was established in 2007 and therefore does not cover the entire study period, it has quickly become one of the field’s leading journals. Di Vaio and Weisdorf (2010) previously identified four of these journals—*EHR*, *EREH*, *EXPLO*, and *JEH*—as the most influential in the discipline, based on citation impact. Since then, *Cliometrica* has emerged as a comparable outlet in terms of scholarly quality and international recognition. These journals are central to academic research in economic history, as they attract the highest volume of submissions, maintain rigorous peer-review standards, and publish only the most robust scholarship. Their prestige not only guarantees trust among readers but also contributes significantly to the academic reputation and funding opportunities available to contributing authors.

In addition to these five generalist journals, we included two high-impact regional journals that, although not exclusively focused on Latin America, frequently publish research relevant to the region. These are *Asia-Pacific Economic History*—which until 2022 was titled *Australian Economic History Review*—and *Revista de Historia Económica–Journal of Iberian and Latin American Economic History*, which bore its original Spanish title exclusively until 2006. Both journals are indexed in the SSCI and have consistently demonstrated scholarly rigor and international relevance. Their inclusion reflects our intention to account not only for the top global journals but also for high-quality regional publications with meaningful contributions to Latin American economic history.

Journals such as *Economic History of Developing Regions*, *Historia Económica de América Latina* or *América Latina en la Historia Económica*, while thematically relevant, were excluded from the sample because they are not indexed in the SSCI. This is because our aim in this article is to focus on the journals of Economic History with the highest impact at the international level, which are the ones that have the greatest penetration outside the Latin American market for the Economic History of the region.

Likewise, we have deliberately focused exclusively on the leading generalist journals in Economic History. There are, of course, prominent journals dedicated to specific subfields of great relevance to Economic History—such as Business History (e.g., *Business History* or *Business History Review*), Industrial History (e.g., *Revista de Historia Industrial – Industrial History Review*), or Agricultural History (e.g., *Agricultural History* or *Historia Agraria*)—in which Latin American scholars actively participate and often serve on editorial boards. However, after careful deliberation, we decided to concentrate on the generalist journals, which not only have the highest impact in the field but also publish many of the best articles in each of these specialized areas. Moreover, any selection of journals necessarily implies the exclusion of part of the existing research—or, alternatively, the inclusion of articles that fall outside the core scope of the discipline. Therefore, there is no universally correct solution to the issue of journal selection. What matters, rather, is the consistent and transparent application of a clearly defined criterion.

At the same time, we are fully aware that most of the research on Latin American Economic History is published in regional journals (often in Spanish), in books, and in journals with a less quantitative and/or cliometric perspective (Bértola, 2025). But our focus is to analyze who is telling Latin American Economic History to the world through the journals with the highest impact factor according to the above mentioned ranking.

This strategy of focusing on publications in the leading generalist journals of economic history inevitably introduces certain biases. First, there are thematic biases. International journals tend to prioritize general issues of broader global interest, such as the impact of Spanish colonialism (in comparison to other colonial empires) or the evolution of US–Latin America relations, as is evident in many of the selected articles. More localized topics—especially those concerning countries with less international influence—rarely find space in top-tier international journals. Second, there are generational biases. The imperative to publish in prestigious international journals in order to gain academic recognition and career advancement has intensified in recent decades, particularly in the twenty-first century (Fourie and Gardner, 2014). As a result, younger scholars, who are more reliant on international visibility, tend to be more focused on internationalization than senior academics, whose established reputations afford them greater freedom in shaping their publication strategies. Third, journal articles typically concentrate on a single innovative idea, whereas books develop a topic in greater depth, offering broader context and engaging with the existing body of knowledge over the course of several hundred pages. Consequently, by focusing exclusively on international journals, we emphasize recent research that often overlooks the dominant themes historically explored in Latin American economic history. Finally, there are biases linked to the uneven processes of internationalization. Not all Latin American countries have placed the same emphasis on internationalizing research in the social sciences (as will become apparent when we analyze the authors’ countries of affiliation), and the degree of pressure exerted by academic or governmental institutions can strongly influence whether scholars choose to publish in domestic or regional journals versus international ones. In short, the selection of journals necessarily involves thematic, generational, cultural, and epistemological biases that cannot be entirely avoided; however, this does not diminish the importance—though it may reduce the diversity—of the central question we aim to address.

For all seven selected journals, we reviewed every research article and research note published between 2000 and 2024, across all volumes and issues. Articles that have been accepted but not yet published (i.e., forthcoming) were not included in the analysis. In total, the final dataset comprises 3,891 unique articles, all of which are documented in the LATAM-EH Database⁴. First, we classified all articles by world region according to their geographic focus—Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, Latin America, or non-Latin American regions of the Americas. Articles that addressed global themes, used samples from cities or countries across all continents, or examined topics not tied to a specific region (e.g., bibliometric studies), were categorized under “Global or Other,” following the classification model used in similar studies (e.g., Fourie, 2019).

Some articles were assigned to multiple regions when their scope clearly extended across several continents, without being truly global. In certain cases, articles were classified both as “Global or Other” and under specific regions, especially when the intention was to provide a global analysis, but the data were disproportionately drawn from a few world regions.

To ensure clarity in our analysis of Latin America, we excluded articles from the Latin American category when they included only minimal or incidental data from the region as part of a broader comparative framework. Instead, we focused on those works in which Latin America was a central object of study.

Throughout the classification process, we carefully reviewed the content of the articles and the geographic origin of their data when needed. While we acknowledge that the regional classification of certain articles could be open to debate or reinterpretation, such cases are few and do not affect the broader trends discussed below.

Table 1 presents the distribution of articles published in the selected journals by world region. In nearly all cases—except for Asia-Pacific Economic History, which has an explicitly regional focus—Europe emerges as the most studied region. In fact, in all Europe-based journals (*Cliometrica*, *Economic History Review*, *European Review of Economic History*, and *Revista de Historia Económica*), over 50% of articles focus on Europe. This share reaches nearly 80% in the *European Review of Economic History*, consistent

⁴ These are distributed as follows: CLIO 272 articles, EHR 865, EREH 492, EXPL 690, JEH 770, A-PEH 357, and RHE 445 publications.

with its regional orientation, and remains similarly high in the *Economic History Review*, despite its broader international scope.

In North American journals—*Explorations in Economic History* and the *Journal of Economic History*—non-Latin American regions of the Americas also feature prominently, exceeding 25% of publications. In the *Journal of Economic History*, such articles represent 42.5% of the total, narrowly surpassing Europe by 1.3 percentage points.

Latin America stands out significantly only in the *Revista de Historia Económica–Journal of Iberian and Latin American Economic History*, where it accounts for 41.1% of all articles published between 2000 and 2024. In the remaining journals, Latin America’s representation ranges from 3% (EREH and *Explorations*) to 5.5% (*Cliometrica* and JEH).

Given that Latin America accounts for 7.9% of the world’s population, this level of representation suggests a mild underrepresentation in top-tier economic history journals—though this assessment does not consider the extent to which global studies may (or may not) meaningfully engage with the region. Overall, only Europe and North America appear to be overrepresented, while Latin America is considerably less underrepresented than Asia (which holds 60% of the global population) and Africa (with 17%).

Table 1. Distribution of articles published in selected journals by world region, 2000–2024

	LATAM	Rest of America*	Europe	Africa	Asia	Oceania	Global or other
CLIO	5.5	21.0	51.8	1.5	9.6	1.5	19.5
EHR	3.9	6.3	74.5	5.4	10.7	1.0	4.8
EREH	3.0	7.7	79.3	3.0	4.1	0.4	12.0
EXPLO	3.0	35.8	43.8	2.9	11.3	1.6	9.1
JEH	5.5	42.5	41.2	3.3	10.7	0.9	4.8
A-PEH	3.6	6.4	5.9	0.8	28.9	56.3	10.1
RHE	41.1	1.6	55.5	1.1	2.9	0.7	4.3

Note: Cases exceeding 25% are highlighted in grey.

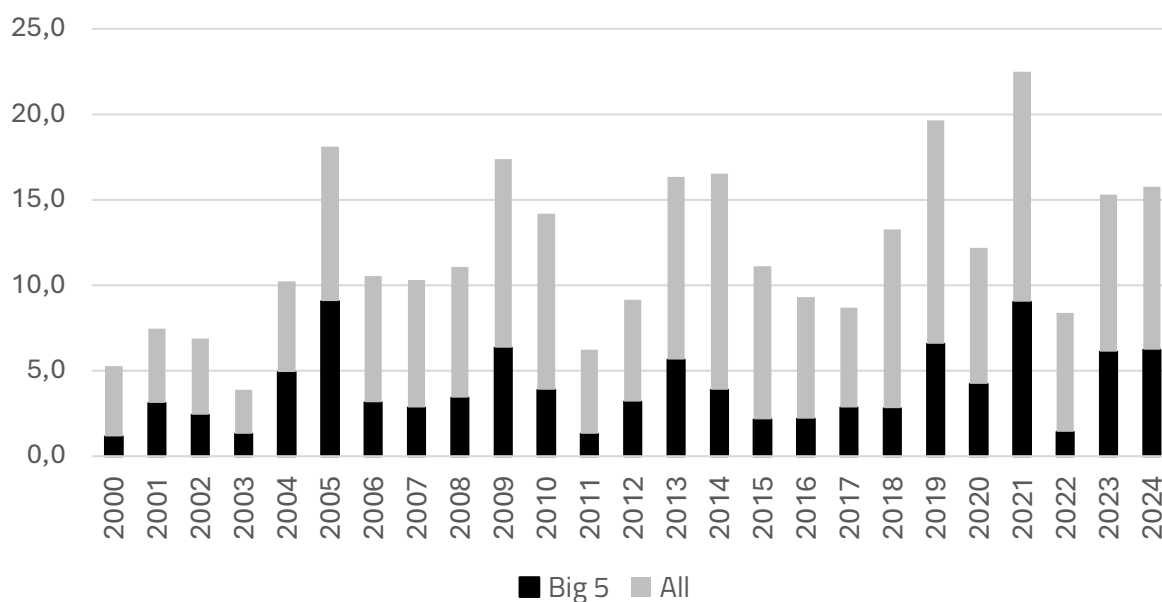
* This category includes North America, the Caribbean, and predominantly non-Latin-speaking countries.

Source: LATAM-EH Database

Has there been an evolution in the volume of research on Latin America over the past 25 years? Figure 1 illustrates the annual trend—expressed as a percentage of total publications—of articles on Latin America published in the previously mentioned journals. The data show a clear upward trajectory: during the first five-year period analyzed, only 4.2% of published articles focused on Latin America. This figure doubled to 8.6% in the following five-year period and remained stable—or even slightly increased—thereafter, reaching 9.4% in the most recent period (2020–2024).

However, when focusing exclusively on the “Big Five” journals—excluding the *Asia-Pacific Economic History Review* and *Revista de Historia Económica–Journal of Iberian and Latin American Economic History*—the percentages are significantly lower. The share of Latin America-related publications in these core journals rose from 2.6% in the first five-year period to 5.5% in the most recent one. Despite the more modest figures, the data still confirm a steady upward trend in the visibility of Latin American topics within the field of economic history over the past 25 years.

Figure 1. Annual evolution of the share of articles about Latin America over the total published



Source: LATAM-EH Database

Taken together, Table 1 and Figure 1 indicate that research on Latin America remains relatively marginal within the leading economic history journals, accounting for approximately 5% of all articles published over the past 25 years. When compared to regions such as Europe or North America, Latin America occupies a secondary position. Nevertheless, its presence has grown over time, with the number of publications roughly doubling since the early 2000s.

In the following section, we delve deeper into the internal distribution of this research: its geographic focus (by country), its chronological scope (by historical period), and the research strategies adopted by scholars—specifically, whether the work is conducted individually or through collaborative authorship.

2. Distribution of research on Latin America by country, time period and number of authors

Distribution by country

A crucial question for understanding what is being published about Latin America in leading academic journals in economic history is how research is distributed by country within the region. To address this, we classified each article based on the countries it focuses on. When an article covers the entire region, it is categorized under “LATAM”; when it addresses multiple countries without encompassing the whole region, it is classified as “MULTIPLE”.

This classification is based primarily on the author’s stated intent, as reflected in the article’s title and abstract, and confirmed by the editorial and peer-review processes. For example, if an author refers to “Latin America” in the title—despite using data from only five countries—and the article has successfully passed peer review, we have categorized it as “LATAM.” We made exceptions to this rule only when the data clearly refer to a single country, in which case the article was assigned accordingly.

Similarly, when articles address historical regions or populations—such as the Guaraní—we have assigned them to the modern country or countries most closely associated with that territory or population (e.g., Paraguay for the Guaraní, and MULTIPLE for the former colonial territory of Nueva Granada). Our guiding principle has been to prioritize the geographic or cultural focus that the author seeks to emphasize.

Finally, articles addressing broad regional phenomena—such as colonization or the arrival of European and/or African populations—have been categorized as “LATAM,” even when the underlying data may not be comprehensive or fully representative of the region as a whole.

In sum, we have prioritized authorial intent in our classification decisions. While some choices may be open to interpretation, we have aimed to apply this methodology as consistently and transparently as possible, as reflected in the LATAM-EH Database. Importantly, any limitations in this approach do not affect the broader trends discussed in the following sections.

Table 2. Distribution of total number of articles on Latin America by country or region, 2000–2024

	CLIO	EHR	EREH	EXPLO	JEH	A-PEH	RHE	TOTAL	%
LATAM	2	14	2	4	9	4	45	80	24.9
MULTIPLE	2	3	1	0	3	2	11	19	5.9
ARGENTINA	3	2	0	5	0	1	35	49	15.3
BOLIVIA	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0.9
BRAZIL	2	9	6	1	6	0	16	40	12.5
CHILE	2	0	0	2	1	1	15	21	6.5
COLOMBIA	1	0	1	1	1	1	14	19	5.9
COSTA RICA	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.3
CUBA	0	1	1	1	1	0	4	8	2.5
ECUADOR	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.3
HAITI	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	4	1.2
HONDURAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.3
MEXICO	0	3	0	4	14	2	20	43	13.4
PANAMA	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.3
PARAGUAY	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.3
PERU	1	0	1	2	2	1	10	17	5.3
PUERTO RICO	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.6
SALVADOR	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	1	0.3
URUGUAY	1	1	1	0	0	1	3	10	3.1
TOTAL	15	35	14	21	42	13	183	321	100

Note: The 3 cases with the most observations are highlighted in grey.

Source: LATAM-EH Database

Table 2 presents the distribution of total publications on Latin America by country or region. In all journals analyzed, articles addressing Latin America as a whole stand out, accounting for nearly 25% of all publications. This is particularly noteworthy given the region’s considerable geographic, climatic, economic, and demographic diversity, which complicates its treatment as a homogeneous unit. At the same time, this trend reflects a strong sense of regional unity, as noted by Tünnermann Bernheim (2007).

Among individually studied countries, Argentina (15.3%), Mexico (13.4%), and Brazil (12.5%) appear most frequently. While this is not unexpected given that they are among the most populous countries in the region, the number of publications does not strictly align with population size. For instance, Brazil’s population is more than four times that of Argentina and more than twice that of Mexico, yet its share of publications is only slightly higher.

In contrast, several countries receive little to no individual attention in leading journals. Countries such as Guatemala, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic are not represented at all through exclusive studies, while others such as Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Paraguay appear only sporadically. There seems to be a general correlation between a country's per capita income and the degree of internationalization of its academic community—reflected in the visibility of its scholars in top journals. This is evident in the case of Chile (6.5%), Colombia (5.9%), and Uruguay (3.1%). However, this relationship is not strictly linear.

An illustrative case is Peru, where the country's relatively strong representation—17 articles, or 5.3% of the total—is heavily influenced by the prolific output of a single scholar, Luis Felipe Zegarra. He alone is responsible for over half of these publications, including 10 single-authored articles.

In sum, the country-level distribution of research on Latin America reveals several patterns. First, there is a substantial body of work that treats the region as a whole, either analytically or conceptually. Second, a handful of countries—Argentina, Mexico, and Brazil—dominate individual-country analyses. Third, a group of mid-level countries (notably Chile, Colombia, Peru, and Uruguay) are supported by strong academic communities in economic history. Finally, a large number of Latin American countries remain significantly underrepresented—or entirely absent—in the top-tier economic history journals.

Distribution by period

Table 3 analyzes the chronological distribution of the articles in the sample. It is important to note that a single article may cover multiple centuries. As a general rule, an article was assigned to a given century if it devoted at least ten years of analysis to that period. Additionally, a small number of articles (six in total) were excluded from this classification due to their exclusively theoretical focus.

The results show that, both across the entire dataset and within each individual journal, the 19th and 20th centuries are the most frequently studied periods, together accounting for nearly 75% of all publications. Furthermore, given the limited number of studies on 19th-century Cuba and Puerto Rico, it can be inferred that scholarly attention is concentrated primarily on the post-independence history of Latin American republics. Indeed, only 20% of the articles examine the colonial era—or, more rarely, the precolonial period. This pattern is consistent across all the journals included in the analysis.

Table 3. Distribution of articles by journal and century of focus (articles may fall into multiple categories simultaneously), 2000–2024

	CLIO	EHR	EREH	EXPLO	JEH	A-PEH	RHE	TOTAL	%
Pre-16th century	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	5	1.0
16th century	0	3	0	4	2	0	11	20	4.0
17th century	0	5	0	2	2	0	17	26	5.2
18th century	1	10	0	2	4	0	31	48	9.5
19th century	8	18	8	6	21	4	100	165	32.7
20th century	8	20	12	14	31	12	110	207	41.1
21st century	1	3	1	2	1	3	22	33	6.5

Source: LATAM-EH Database

Distribution by number of authors

In a recent study, Seltzer and Hamermesh (2018) found that co-authored articles have become increasingly common in the field of economic history, aligning more closely with trends in economics and diverging from those in traditional history. In 2011, the average across economic history journals showed that 58.3% of articles were co-authored, a figure that rose to 67.6% in the top three journals in the field. However, the study did not find that co-authored papers demonstrated superior methodology, richer datasets, or higher academic impact in terms of citations.

What is the situation in the case of articles on Latin American economic history published between 2000 and 2024? Here, single authorship remains dominant. 52% of the publications on Latin America are sole-authored, while the remaining 48% are co-authored as follows: 33.2% with two authors, 12% with three authors, 2.5% with four authors, and just one article involving more than five authors (a total of six co-authors). This represents a difference of over 10 percentage points compared to the overall co-authorship rate in 2011 reported above.

Table 4 shows the average number of authors per article by journal type. The data indicate that co-authorship is more common in the “Big Five” journals, where the average number of authors per article is 1.8, compared to 1.55 in the *Revista de Historia Económica*. Nonetheless, only in *Cliometrica* does the average reach 2 authors per article. In all other cases, single-authored articles remain the norm. In summary, single authorship still predominates in Latin American economic history, and articles with more than three authors remain rare—accounting for less than 3% of total publications in the field.

Table 4. Average number of authors per article published in leading Economic History journals, 2000–2024

Number of authors	ALL	CLIO	EHR	EREH	EXPLO	JEH	A-PEH	RHE
Average per article	1.66	2.00	1.83	1.53	1.71	1.86	1.77	1.55

Source: LATAM–EH Database

3. Scholars of Latin American Economic History in the 21st century

In this section, we examine the profiles of economic historians who have conducted research on Latin America, focusing on their gender, institutional affiliation, country of origin (as defined below), and the country in which their affiliated institution is located. We also analyze the most prolific authors in the field.

According to our dataset—the LATAM–EH Database—only 25.9% of the unique authors identified are women. However, as shown in Table 5, female scholars have demonstrated higher levels of productivity, having co-authored nearly one-third (31.5%) of all articles analyzed⁵. Nevertheless, the representation of female authors is unevenly distributed across journals. In the *Asia-Pacific Economic History Review* and the *European Review of Economic History*, women accounted for 50% of the contributions. In *Cliometrica*, they even constituted the majority, with 52.8% of the publications. By contrast, in the *Journal of Economic History*, women authored less than 25% of the articles focused on the region, and in the *Revista de Historia Económica–Journal of Iberian and Latin American Economic History*, their share was only 26.4%.

Table 5. Gender distribution by journal: share of female authors in leading Economic History journals, 2000–2024

% authors	ALL	CLIO	EHR	EREH	EXPLO	JEH	A-PEH	RHE
Female	31.5	52.8	36.6	50.0	29.8	23.8	50.0	26.4

Source: LATAM–EH Database

This variation may be explained by two main factors. First, the small number of articles included in the sample for *Cliometrica* (15 articles), *EREH* (14 articles) and *A-PEH* (13 articles) may introduce some volatility in the data. Second, differences in journal profiles, geographic location, and thematic scope may have (perhaps unintentionally) influenced the distribution, with female authors publishing more frequently in certain journals and being underrepresented in others.

⁵ Publication ratios were used to account for the contributions of male and female authors. Specifically, if an article was co-authored by three individuals, each author was credited with one-third (0.33) of the publication.

In any case, the findings presented in Table 5 reflect a well-documented pattern in the field of Economic History: the predominance of male authors, particularly in publications appearing in the highest-impact journals. However, this gender imbalance has been gradually decreasing over time, including in the Latin American context. Moreover, the results of this study show that female authors have demonstrated greater productivity than their male counterparts, accounting for 25.9% of the total number of authors, yet contributing 31.5% of the total publications.

Table 6 analyzes the most common institutional affiliations among scholars of Latin American Economic History in the first quarter of the twenty-first century. The affiliation recorded corresponds to that listed in each scholar's most recent publication included in the LATAM-EH Database.

Table 6. Research institutions with the highest number of scholars publishing on Latin American Economic History in leading journals, 2000–2024

Research Institution/University	Country	Scholars	%	Articles*	Ratio
Universidad de la República	Uruguay	14	4.1	12.2	0.9
Universitat de Barcelona	Spain	9	2.7	13.2	1.5
Harvard University	US	9	2.7	8.3	0.9
Universidad Complutense de Madrid	Spain	9	2.7	7.3	0.8
Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas**	Argentina	8	2.4	7.8	1.0
Universidad de Valparaíso	Chile	8	2.4	4.0	0.5
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	Spain	7	2.1	8.7	1.2
Universidad de Buenos Aires	Argentina	7	2.1	8.0	1.1
Banco de la República de Colombia	Colombia	7	2.1	7.0	1.0
Stanford University	US	6	1.8	5.8	1.0
Universidade de São Paulo	Brazil	6	1.8	4.5	0.8
Oxford University	UK	6	1.8	4.0	0.7
Universidad de los Andes	Colombia	6	1.8	4.2	0.7
Universidad Torcuato Di Tella	Argentina	5	1.5	6.5	1.3
Universidad de Zaragoza	Spain	5	1.5	6.2	1.2
University of Tübingen	Germany	5	1.5	6.2	1.2
Universitat Pompeu Fabra	Spain	5	1.5	5.5	1.1
Universidad de Santiago de Chile	Chile	5	1.5	3.7	0.7

* Ratio of accumulated articles has been taken in order to compare the productivity of the scholars analyzed⁶. It should be noted that, occasionally, some authors have made only occasional contributions to the study of the region, being counted as well.

** Many Argentinian authors share the *Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas* (CONICET) as their affiliation. However, we have only taken into account those who indicate it as their exclusive affiliation or, at least, indicate it in the first position.

Source: LATAM-EH Database

The results show that among the ten most frequently represented research institutions, five are located outside Latin America—three in Spain and two in the United States. The top-ranked institution is the Universidad de la República (Montevideo, Uruguay), which is home to 14 scholars, representing over 4% of the total sample.

⁶ If an author has co-authored an article with two other individuals, one-third (0.33) of the publication has been attributed to him/hem.

However, caution is warranted in interpreting this result. Argentina's CONICET (*Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas*) is difficult to classify precisely, as many Argentine economic historians hold dual affiliations with both CONICET and a university (in several cases because they work in dual-dependency centers). Nevertheless, in cases of multiple affiliations (including CONICET), we have opted to assign the primary affiliation as listed in their last publication. As a result, CONICET appears in fifth position. Despite this limitation, CONICET clearly stands out as a leading center for economic history research in one of the most academically productive countries in the region.

The second position is shared by three institutions: the Universitat de Barcelona and the Universidad Complutense de Madrid—both located in Spain, the former colonial power for much of the Latin American region—and Harvard University in the United States. Each of these universities hosts nine scholars (representing 2.7% of the total sample), including both European and Latin American nationals. This reflects the prominent roles of Spain and the United States in Latin American research, likely facilitated by the comparatively greater financial resources available at their academic institutions (see, for example, annual data from the World Bank).

Interestingly, there is not a strong—though partially overlapping—correspondence between the most represented research institutions and the most prolific authors in Latin American Economic History. Table 7 presents a ranking of scholars who have published five or more articles on Latin America in leading economic history journals between 2000 and 2024. One must look down the list to the fourth position to find Jeffrey G. Williamson (Harvard University), with 7 publications, as the first highly prolific author affiliated with one of the institutions identified earlier as a leading research center.

It is not until the fifth position—which is shared by 11 authors with five articles each—that we find representatives from the Universidad de la República in Uruguay (Henry Willebald), the Universitat de Barcelona (Marc Badia-Miró), and the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Rafael Dobado González).

Table 7. Most prolific authors on Latin America in leading Economic History journals, 2000–2024

	Authors	Sex	Origin	University/Insitution	Articles	Fraction
1	Zegarra, Luis Felipe	M	Peru	Pontificia Universidad Católica del Peru (Peru)	10	10.0
2	Arroyo Abad, Leticia	F	Argentina	City University of New York (US)	9	6.16
3	Maurer, Noel	M	US	George Washington University (US)	8	4.2
4	Williamson, Jeffrey G.	M	US	Harvard University (US)	7	3.5
5	Badia Miro, Marc	M	Spain	Universitat de Barcelona (Spain)	5	2.2
5	Baten, Jörg	M	Germany	University of Tübingen (Germany)	5	2.2
5	Dobado González, Rafael	M	Spain	Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain)	5	2.3
5	González, Felipe	M	Chile	Queen Mary University of London (UK)	5	2.3
5	Kuntz Ficker, Sandra	F	Mexico	El Colegio de México (Mexico)	5	4.5
5	Llorca-Jaña, Manuel	M	Chile	Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez (Chile)	5	2.2
5	Meisel, Adolfo	M	Colombia	Banco de la República de Colombia (Colombia)	5	2.8
5	Salvatore, Ricardo D.	M	Argentina	Universidad Torcuato di Tella (Argentina)	5	4.5
5	Sánchez Alonso, Blanca	F	Spain	Universidad San Pablo-CEU (Spain)	5	3.8
5	Vizcarra, Catalina	F	Peru	University of Vermont (US)	5	2.7
5	Willebald, Henry	M	Uruguay	Universidad de la República (Uruguay)	5	2.3

Source: LATAM-EH Database

Returning to Table 6, which focuses on article output (specifically, the previously discussed publication ratios per author), we observe that, overall, differences across institutions are relatively modest. Most institutions average approximately one article per author. Notable exceptions include several Spanish universities, which exhibit higher publication productivity: the Universitat de Barcelona shows an average of 1.5 articles per author, while Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and Universidad de Zaragoza both report 1.2 articles per author—a figure matched by the University of Tübingen in Germany. This trend may be influenced by the Spanish academic system, where research productivity is strongly incentivized (Barba et al., 2014). At the other end of the spectrum, the Universidad de Valparaíso has an average of only 0.5 articles per author, likely due to the prevalence of multi-authored papers among scholars from this institution, including frequent intra-institutional co-authorship.

Regarding Table 7, which lists the most prolific authors in the field of Latin American Economic History, one case stands out: Luis Felipe Zegarra of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. He is not only the most prolific author in the dataset—with ten publications across nearly all major journals—but he has also authored each of these articles alone, highlighting the considerable effort involved. In second place is the Argentine scholar Leticia Arroyo Abad (City University of New York, US), with 9 publications and a productivity ratio of 6.16 articles, reflecting both single-authored and co-authored work. She is followed by Noel Maurer (George Washington University, US), a frequent co-author of Arroyo Abad in recent years, with 8 publications and a ratio of 4.2.

These data indicate that, among the top four most prolific authors (including Jeffrey Williamson, mentioned earlier), only one—Luis Felipe Zegarra—is based at a Latin American institution, and only two are Latin American by origin. More broadly, Table 7 reveals that out of the 15 most prolific scholars in the

field, only six are affiliated with Latin American institutions (based on the affiliation criteria previously discussed).

Even more striking—and arguably concerning—is the low representation of women among these top contributors. Only 3 of the 15 most prolific authors (20%) are women: the aforementioned Leticia Arroyo Abad, Sandra Kuntz Ficker (El Colegio de México) with five publications, and Catalina Vizcarra (University of Vermont, US), also with five.

One of the central concerns of this study is the national origin and institutional location of researchers in Latin American Economic History. This issue is far from trivial—it is of critical importance. Research has shown that an individual's country of birth significantly shapes their worldview, including their understanding of social problems and national priorities (Overgaard et al., 2012; Ejermo and Hansen, 2015). Likewise, the institutional and geographic context in which research is conducted plays a key role in shaping academic perspectives.

In Table 8, we examine both the institutional affiliation and country of origin of the scholars in our sample. For institutional affiliation, we adhere to the previously outlined criterion, assigning affiliation based on the location of the university or research center's main campus. Determining scholars' origins, however, presents greater challenges, as no publicly available comprehensive source exists for this information. To address this, on March 24th, 2025, we reviewed the personal and professional websites (including institutional profiles) and publicly available CVs of all researchers in the dataset to identify self-reported information on place of birth or nationality⁷. In cases where information on an author's country of origin was unavailable, we used the country in which the individual obtained their first university degree as a proxy for origin. Additionally, in uncertain cases, ChatGPT was consulted to search for all publicly available information. Finally, between March 24 and 26, 2025, two leading economic historians specializing in the region—Vicente Pinilla (University of Zaragoza, Spain) and Henry Willebald (Universidad de la República, Uruguay)—were asked to review the list for potential inaccuracies.

While this method is not without limitations and likely contains some errors, it nevertheless provides valuable insights into the researchers' places of origin, particularly in the context of a region characterized by a significant diaspora of native scholars residing in other Western countries, most notably the United States and Spain.

Table 8 shows that the highest concentration of economic historians publishing on Latin America is based at universities in the United States, which accounts for over 20% of the total scholars analyzed (71 individuals). Spain ranks second, with 53 scholars, while the first Latin American country to appear on the list is Argentina, in third place, with 36. Following Argentina, four additional Latin American countries appear: Chile (26), Colombia (24), Brazil (21), and Mexico (20).

Still, among the 15 countries with the largest number of scholars specializing in Latin American Economic History, 8—more than half—are located outside the region. These include 2 North American countries (the United States and Canada) and 6 European countries. Spain and Portugal, the region's former colonial powers, rank second and eleventh, respectively. Other former colonial powers with more limited historical influence in Latin America—such as the United Kingdom and the Netherlands—appear in positions seven and twelve, while France, despite maintaining territorial control over French Guiana, is notably absent.

7 When someone declared a dual nationality, the first nationality to be cited was taken.

Table 8. Distribution of Economic Historians specialized in Latin American research by country of institutional affiliation and country of origin, 2000–2024

By Country of the Institution				By Origin of the Scholar			
	Country	Scholars	%		Country	Scholars	%
1	United States (US)	71	20.88		Argentina	52	15.29
2	Spain	53	15.59		Spain	45	13.24
3	Argentina	36	10.59		US	42	12.35
4	Chile	26	7.65		Brazil	31	9.12
5	Colombia	24	7.06		Colombia	29	8.53
6	Brazil	21	6.18		Chile	28	8.24
7	Mexico	20	5.88		Mexico	20	5.88
7	United Kingdom (UK)	20	5.88		Uruguay	17	5.00
9	Uruguay	15	4.41		United Kingdom (UK)	14	4.12
10	Germany	8	2.35		Germany	9	2.65
11	Portugal	7	2.06		Netherlands	7	2.06
12	Canada	6	1.76		Peru	7	2.06
12	Netherlands	6	1.76		Portugal	6	1.76
14	Italy	5	1.47		India	5	1.47
14	Peru	5	1.47		Canada	4	1.18

Source: LATAM-EH Database

These figures suggest that Latin American Economic History is disproportionately produced by scholars based at North American and European research institutions. This raises important questions: Are these scholars Latin Americans working abroad at better-funded institutions? Or are they researchers from the Global North who benefit from “virgin” datasets and limited local academic competition, given the smaller size of the research community within Latin America?

The second part of Table 8 explores this question further by shifting the focus from current institutional affiliation to researchers’ countries of origin. This alternative lens offers some encouraging signs for Latin American social scientists. For instance, Argentina, while showing 36 scholars by affiliation, has 52 scholars when origin is considered—16 more—many of whom are based in US universities. Other Latin American countries also see an increase when origin is considered: Brazil adds 10 individuals, Colombia 5, Chile 2 and Uruguay 2.

Out of the 340 researchers included in the sample, 148 (43.5%) are affiliated with institutions located in Latin America. However, 189 (55.6%) of them are of Latin American origin. This means that approximately 41 Latin American scholars (12.1% of the total sample) are currently working outside the region but continue to engage with their roots through academic research on Latin America.

Still, even when analyzing researchers by origin, Spain (45 individuals) and the United States (42) remain among the top three countries, alongside Argentina. In other words, there are more Spanish and American scholars working on Latin American economic history and publishing in high-impact international journals than scholars from any Latin American country other than Argentina. This again raises concerns about how major research questions and pressing social issues affecting Latin America are addressed by non-native and non-resident scholars—regardless of their training or regional expertise. These patterns underscore the relevance of the next section, where we analyze the most common combinations of researchers’ countries of origin and institutional affiliation, as well as the extent and nature of collaborations between European and North American scholars and those of Latin American origin.

4. Collaborations between Latin American Economic Historians and scholars from European and North American countries

This section examines the extent of non-native researchers' involvement in the production of scholarly work on Latin American Economic History, and how they interact with native scholars. To do so, Table 9 analyzes the most common combinations of researchers' countries of origin and the countries in which their affiliated institutions are located (based on the criteria outlined earlier). Among the 14 most frequent cases (each involving five or more scholars), 12 correspond to individuals whose country of origin matches their country of institutional affiliation. Only two combinations involve researchers working outside their country of origin: Argentinian scholars working in the United States (7 individuals) and Colombian scholars also based in the United States (5 individuals). This finding suggests that, for Latin American economic historians working abroad, the US is by far the primary destination for academic employment.

Table 9. Most common combinations of country of origin and Institutional affiliation among the Economic Historians under analysis, 2000–2024

	Origin	Affiliation	Cases		Origin	Affiliation	Cases
1	Spain	Spain	42	8	Mexico	Mexico	12
2	US	US	39	9	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	11
3	Argentina	Argentina	34	10	Argentina	US	7
4	Chile	Chile	23	11	Germany	Germany	5
5	Colombia	Colombia	22	11	Colombia	US	5
6	Brasil	Brasil	20	11	Netherlands	Netherlands	5
7	Uruguay	Uruguay	14	11	Portugal	Portugal	5

Source: LATAM–EH Database

Table 9 also reveals that, in 12 of the 14 most frequent combinations, researchers are working in their country of origin. Notably, only half of these cases involve Latin American scholars conducting research within Latin America. The most represented group is Spanish researchers based in Spain, with 42 cases, followed closely by US-based American researchers, with 39. The first Latin American group appears in third place: Argentine scholars working in Argentina (34 individuals). Positions four through eight are also occupied by researchers based in Latin America: Chile (23), Colombia (22), Brazil (20), Uruguay (14), and Mexico (12). From the ninth position onward, we again see European scholars working in their countries of origin—specifically from the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, and Portugal.

Scientific colonialism is typically defined as the practice by which researchers—often from the Global North—conduct fieldwork or data collection in the Global South, then return to their home institutions to analyze and publish the results without engaging local researchers as collaborators (Galtung, 1967). In their influential study on scientific colonialism in paleontology, Baja et al. (2022) found that over 97% of global paleontological research was conducted by North American or European scholars. In many cases, fossils were acquired—sometimes illegally—from other countries and studied abroad, with no participation or credit given to local researchers. Even when the focus of study was on Global South specimens, local experts were frequently excluded from the research and publication process, depriving the work of regional insights and perspectives.

A similar dynamic has been observed in Economic History research focused on Africa. Johan Fourie (2019) highlighted the dominance of foreign researchers in shaping the historical narrative of the region. Like Baja et al. (2022), Fourie advocates for the inclusion of local scholars in research concerning their own regions. Such inclusion is not only essential for developing local academic capacity and resources, but also for integrating invaluable regional knowledge into the research process. Ideally, historical research on a region should be produced in collaboration with local scholars, who are the rightful custodians of their cultural and historical heritage—including data—and whose participation can contribute to the scientific

development of countries where academic infrastructures and access to advanced research methods may still be limited.

In Table 10, we focus on researchers from the five European countries and the United States with the highest number of cases in Table 9, specifically those whose country of origin matches their country of institutional affiliation. For each group, we examined the total number of articles published by these researchers (counting each article only once per country group, even when co-authored) and calculated the percentage of these studies that were conducted in collaboration with scholars either from Latin America or affiliated with Latin American research institutions.

It is worth noting, before presenting the results, that 52% of the publications in our dataset are single-authored. These are included in the analysis as well, since even sole authors could have chosen to involve a local collaborator if they had wished to do so. At the same time, we must approach these results with nuance: the absence of collaboration with Latin American scholars does not necessarily imply a lack of regional expertise. Many non-Latin American researchers may have deep knowledge of the region based on their topic, data familiarity, fieldwork, or long-term engagement. Nonetheless, patterns of collaboration—or their absence—raise important questions about equity, authorship, and inclusion in the production of regional historical knowledge.

Table 10. Percentage of articles authored by scholars from Europe or the United States that include Latin American co-authors in leading Economic History journals, 2000–2024

Origin	Individuals	Articles	Rate	% of collaborations with LATAM
Spain	42	61	1.5	26.2%
US	39	54	1.4	31.5%
United Kingdom	11	10	1.1	40.0%
Germany	5	6	0.8	16.7%
Netherlands	5	6	0.8	50.0%
Portugal	5	3	0.6	0.0%

Source: LATAM-EH Database

As shown in Table 10, less than one-third of the articles include co-authorship with Latin American scholars or scholars based in Latin America. In fact, if the criterion is limited strictly to authors with institutional affiliations within the region, the proportion drops to less than half in most cases. Specifically, only 26.2% of the 61 articles authored by Spanish scholars involved a Latin American co-author, and just 31.5% of the 54 articles written by US-based scholars did so. In contrast, albeit still far from universal, 50% of the six Dutch-authored articles and 40% of the ten British-authored articles featured co-authors from Latin America.

These findings highlight the continuing need for progress in fostering equitable collaboration, so as to avoid reinforcing patterns associated with scientific colonialism. This issue is particularly pressing in the case of Spain, which is not only the most active non-Latin American contributor to the region's economic history scholarship, but also the former colonial power. The problem is further compounded by the fact that these practices are predominantly carried out by university-trained scholars—members of the national academic elite—who might be expected to adopt a more critical stance toward both historical colonialism and contemporary forms of neo-colonialism in academia (Hira, 2015).

5. Research impact: citation patterns of Latin American Economic History

This section examines the scholarly impact of research on Latin American Economic History published in leading economic history journals between 2000 and 2024, as measured by citation counts. Citation data for all articles in the sample were retrieved from Google Scholar on March 27, 2025. It is important to acknowledge that articles published in 2000 have had up to 25 years to accumulate citations, while those

published at the end of 2024 have had only a few months. Furthermore, some articles may have circulated earlier as working papers, potentially increasing their visibility and citation counts (Rastogi et al., 2022). Citation figures also vary across platforms such as ResearchGate and others. For these reasons, and due to additional factors such as the popularity of specific topics or the profile of certain authors, these metrics must be interpreted with caution. Nevertheless, the data offer valuable insights and are worth analyzing carefully.

Citations, while imperfect, are generally regarded as a proxy for the scholarly interest generated by a piece of research. However, certain topics—due to the size and activity of the research community working on them—may naturally attract more citations than others. Moreover, factors related to the authors' individual characteristics and institutional affiliations may influence citation patterns, albeit in ways that may reflect structural inequalities or biases. For instance, among the economic historians analyzed in this study, male authors averaged 38.9 citations per article, compared to 32.6 for female authors. This disparity may be partly attributed to systemic gender-based discrimination, but it also likely reflects the more recent entry of women into the field of economic history, giving their publications less time to accumulate citations, as well as potentially different publishing strategies.

Table 11 presents the average number of citations per article on Latin American Economic History, categorized by journal. Across the full sample of articles published between 2000 and 2024, the mean citation count is 30.2. However, the distribution is far from uniform. Articles published in the *European Review of Economic History* (EREH) have received only 12.9 citations on average, while those in the *Asia-Pacific Economic History Review* average 13.3 citations and those in the *Revista de Historia Económica–Journal of Iberian and Latin American Economic History* average 17.9.

At the other end of the spectrum, articles published in the *Journal of Economic History*—which features a large number of contributions from US-based authors—average 48.9 citations. Publications in *Cliometrica* average 31.6 citations across 15 articles; the *Economic History Review* averages 30.5; and *Explorations in Economic History* reports an average of 29.7 citations for its Latin America-related articles. These substantial differences in citation performance appear to correlate closely with the journals' overall impact factors, though some cases—such as the unexpectedly low citation count for articles in the EREH—remain less clearly explained.

Table 11. Distribution of average citations of Latin American Economic History articles by journal, 2000–2024

Citations per article	ALL	CLIO	EHR	EREH	EXPLO	JEH	A-PEH	RHE
Average	31.6	30.5	12.9	29.7	48.9	13.3	17.9	31.6

Source: LATAM–EH Database

Table 12 analyzes the distribution of average citation counts by the country in which the scholars' affiliated research institutions are located. This analysis offers insight into whether certain locations generate greater scholarly impact—measured by citation counts—than others. It is important to note, however, that citation impact also depends on a range of additional factors, such as publication outlets, research topics, and available institutional resources.

Despite these complexities, Table 12 reveals that authors affiliated with British institutions have achieved the highest average citation rates, exceeding the overall mean by more than 2.5 times. Scholars based at US universities also stand out, with an average of 52 citations per article—more than 1.5 times the overall average.

Among Latin American countries, Brazil is a notable outlier, with an impressive 39.9 citations per article. In contrast, the remaining countries in the table fall below the overall average of 30.2 citations. For example, Spain, despite being the second most represented country in the sample, averages only 21.7 citations per article. Argentina, the third most represented country, performs particularly poorly with just 16.3 citations per article—well below both the global and regional averages. Most other Latin American countries cluster around slightly above 20 citations per article.

Table 12. Distribution of average citations by country of academic affiliation, 2000–2024

Country of Institution	Scholars	Cites/Article
1. United Kingdom	20	80.6
2. US	71	52.0
3. Brazil	21	39.9
4. Uruguay	15	27.3
5. Spain	53	21.7
6. Mexico	20	21.4
7. Colombia	24	21.3
8. Chile	26	16.4
9. Argentina	36	16.3

Source: LATAM–EH Database

Table 13 presents a list of the most cited authors of articles on Latin American economic history published in leading journals between 2000 and 2024. With the exception of the tenth-ranked author, Stephen Haber (Stanford University, US), all listed scholars have published only a single article on the topic; however, these publications have garnered significant attention. Haber is the only author in the group with two articles. This pattern suggests that authors with multiple contributions may face a dilution of citation counts across their work, potentially limiting their chances of achieving high individual citation numbers—even in cases where the author is a Nobel laureate.

Table 13. Leading Economic Historians of Latin America by citation count, 2000–2024 (Publications)

	Authors	Gender	Origin	Current University/ Research Institution	Articles	Cites/ article
1	De Vries, Gaaitzen J.	M	Netherlands	University of Groningen (Netherlands)	1	405
1	Timmer, Marcel P.	M	UK	University of Groningen (Netherlands)	1	405
2	Berges, Ame R.	F	UK	University of Oxford (UK)	1	311
2	Fitzgerald, Valpy	M	UK	University of Oxford (UK)	1	311
3	Assunção, Juliano J.	M	Brazil	Pontifical Catholic Univ. of Rio de Janeiro (Br)	1	251
3	Soares, Rodrigo R.	M	Brazil	Pontifical Catholic Univ. of Rio de Janeiro (Br)	1	251
3	Naritomi, Joana	F	Brazil	Harvard University (US)	1	251
4	Davies, Elwyn	M	Netherlands	Utrecht University (Netherlands)	1	223
5	Higman, Barry W.	M	Australia	Australian National University (Australia)	1	219
6	O'Rourke, Kevin H.	M	Ireland	Sciences Po (France)*	1	218
7	Grafe, Regina	F	Germany	Northwestern University (US)	1	185
8	Tang, Leilei	M	China	University of Southampton (UK)	1	180
8	Dale, Richard S.	M	UK	University of Southampton (UK)	1	180
8	Johnson, Johnnie E. V.	M	UK	University of Southampton (UK)	1	180
9	Bates, Robert H.	M	US	Harvard University (US)	1	179
10	Haber, Stephen	M	US	Stanford University (US)	2	164

* In the case of Kevin H. O'Rourke we have made the exception of assigning him his current academic affiliation rather than the one he held when he published his only article in the sample (in 2002) to improve the accuracy of the table.

Note: M: Male; F: Female

Source: LATAM-EH Database

The most cited article in the dataset is by Gaaitzen J. de Vries and Marcel P. Timmer (both from the University of Groningen, Netherlands), with 405 citations, followed by a paper by Ame R. Berges and Valpy Fitzgerald (both from the University of Oxford, UK), which has received 311 citations.

Perhaps most striking about the list of 16 authors is the limited diversity in gender and institutional affiliation: only 3 are women (18.8%), just 2 (12.5%) are affiliated with universities located in Latin America, and only 3 originate from the region. The most highly cited articles are primarily authored by scholars affiliated with institutions in the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Netherlands.

6. Preliminary conclusions

We have analyzed publications on Latin America featured in seven of the leading high-impact international economic history journals—none of which are published in the region. These journals tend to favor research with a cliometric approach or, at the very least, a quantitative historical perspective.

While most publications on Latin America's economic history appear in books and journals based in the various countries of the region—often in Spanish/Portuguese and with limited cliometric influence—our goal is to examine who is producing and disseminating knowledge about the region's economic history within the highest-impact international journals. Therefore, focusing on leading generalist international journals introduces unavoidable biases—mainly thematic, generational, and related to publication format and internationalization—. To sum up, these selected journals tend to prioritize broad topics of global in-

terest, often overlooking more localized issues. Possibly, younger scholars are more pressured to publish internationally, while senior academics have more flexibility. Additionally, differences in national research policies influence the extent of international engagement. However, this does not affect the objective of our study, which is not to analyze all possible publications on Latin America's economic history, but rather to focus exclusively on those that meet the specified criteria. In any case, the analysis of the results and the academic figures highlighted in this article should be taken with caution.

Approximately 5% of publications in the leading journals of Economic History worldwide pertain to Latin American research. This figure indicates a slight underrepresentation of the region, given that it accounts for about 7% of the global population. Nevertheless, the trend is upward, suggesting that this gap may narrow in the coming years or decades. This underrepresentation is also influenced by the uneven distribution of publications across countries. While Argentina, Mexico, and Brazil each contribute over 10% of the region's total output, countries such as the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Paraguay, and the Central American republics are scarcely represented. Therefore, promoting the development of Economic History research in these underrepresented nations would be particularly valuable.

Regarding the historical periods studied, research on the post-independence era—comprising the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries—dominates the field, accounting for more than 75% of all Latin American Economic History publications. This pattern mirrors broader trends in the discipline globally.

An additional challenge facing Economic History research in Latin America concerns gender representation. Only 25% of authors publishing in top-tier Economic History journals in the twenty-first century are women, and they have authored just 31.5% of the total publications—less than one-third. Nonetheless, the steady increase in the number of female economic historians over the past 25 years is moderately encouraging, especially considering that, on average, women have published more than their male counterparts during this period.

Another key aspect explored in this study is the institutional and national background of researchers. In terms of institutional affiliation, the United States leads with 71 scholars, followed by Spain (53), Argentina (36), Chile (26), Colombia (24), and Brazil (21). Notably, eight of the fourteen countries with the highest number of scholars studying Latin America are located outside the region. However, when considering researchers' countries of origin, Argentina ranks first (52 scholars), followed by Spain (45), the United States (42), Brazil (31), and Colombia (29). In sum, only 43% of scholars publishing on Latin American Economic History are affiliated with institutions within the region, though this figure rises to 55% when accounting for researchers' countries of origin—suggesting that around 25% of the region's academic community resides in the diaspora.

Moreover, 45% of the scholarly community studying Latin American Economic History in major journals between 2000 and 2024 neither originate from the region nor are institutionally affiliated with it. Among this group, Spanish and American researchers are the most prominent. Although these foreign scholars often draw on data produced in Latin America, their potential to contribute to the regional academic community through collaboration remains underexploited. Only 26.2% of Spanish-authored articles and 31.5% of US-authored articles involved co-authors based in the region. As awareness of scientific colonialism grows within the international academic community, fostering collaboration with Latin American scholars may become more common, potentially enhancing the contextualization and relevance of research findings.

Finally, regarding the impact of the publications analyzed, the average number of citations per article was 30.2. However, this figure varies significantly depending on several factors. Articles published in higher-impact journals tend to receive more citations, as do those authored by British and American researchers—who receive 2.5 and 1.5 times the average number of citations, respectively. In contrast, articles authored by Latin American (and Spanish) scholars receive approximately 21 citations on average.

While the findings presented offer valuable insights, it is important to emphasize that they are based solely on the seven selected generalist journals and do not fully represent the diverse and complex landscape of the broader Latin American scholarly community.

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