

## Vita

**Maza Duerto, Octavio** was born in Maturin, Venezuela, on May 10<sup>th</sup> 1974. He attended high school at Loyola, a Jesuit high school located in Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela. Mr. Maza graduated from Loyola in the top 1% of his class in 1992. Then, He enrolled in an intensive English course at Interlink Language Center in Greensboro, North Carolina. Mr. Maza received his Bachelor degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering in 1996, his Master of Science in Management Systems Engineering in 1998, and his PhD in Economics in 2003 from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg Virginia. Also, Mr. Maza benefited from a semester as a visiting graduate student at Brown University during the spring of 2001, where He furthered his studies in demography and economics.

Mr. Maza has worked as an instructor in economics at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, where He taught “Principles of Microeconomics.” He has enjoyed teaching university students immensely, and their course evaluations reflect their high regard for his teaching abilities.

Mr. Maza’s research focuses primarily on economic demography and household economics, and their relevance to public (governmental) policy. His dissertation uses cohort analysis to argue that there is a connection between positive exogenous macroeconomic shocks, the timing of births, and lifetime fertility in Venezuela. A better understanding of the mechanics of how a positive economic shock changes the economic conditions for an average Venezuelan household and how these new conditions may affect the timing of births is relevant to public policy, because it offers Venezuela and other governments of developing countries insight into how to better deploy the benefits of an unexpected economic boom.

Mr. Maza has been invited to speak on his research by the Andrés Bello Catholic University in Caracas, Venezuela, on March 2002 and by the Northeast Universities Development Conference on October 2002, where He presented the main results of his dissertation. Finally, Mr. Maza is well trained in economics and demography, and experienced in analyzing policy issues of third world countries. His continuing research interest in developing countries is reflected not only in my dissertation, but also in his earlier research on the role of gender in intergenerational transfer of human capital.