**SPEAKER:** Christian Chacua (University of Bordeaux, HKS CID Growth Lab)

**TITLE:** "The Life Cycle of Research Interest" (paper with Richard B. Freeman)

**ABSTRACT:**Research interests are not constant: the incentives to work on a particular topic can change over time. In this work, we follow scientists in their academic careers to identify some stylized facts and provide an analytical framework to study changes in research interests. We first propose a general taxonomy to classify research interests, measured by the geography of the content and the cognitive scope of published works, as reflected in the references. Next, we perform some empirical estimations, using detailed CV data on Colombian scientists and bibliographic information from Microsoft Academic Graph. We find that as scientists acquire more research experience, research works refer less to local documents and more to foreign documents, even when the content of the research is limited to national issues.

**BIO:**
[Christian Chacua](https://growthlab.cid.harvard.edu/people/christian-chacua) joined the Center for International Development's Growth Lab as a Visiting Fellow in September 2019. He is currently a Ph.D. student in Economics of Innovation at the University of Bordeaux (France). His fields of interest cover economic complexity, economics of innovation and high-skilled migration. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in economics from the Universidad del Valle (Colombia) and a Master’s degree in economics of innovation from the University of Bordeaux. Before joining the CID, he has been both an intern and a contractor at the Economics and Statistics division of the World Intellectual Property Organization (Switzerland). Currently, he is working on his Ph.D. thesis about the impact of high-skilled migration on the globalization of knowledge and innovation.

**ZOOM DISCUSSION FORMAT:**
​Open discussion encouraged. ​Please feel free ​during the presentation to ask short questions/clarifications, by interrupting or raising your ​​zoom-hand. There will also be 2 breaks for Q&A during the presentation & discussion time at the end.