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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Placement Director: Mark Daniel Bernhardt danber@illinois.edu (217)-244-5708
Placement Coordinator: Tera Martin-Roy tmartin@illinois.edu (217)-300-3684

Education:

2017 to present *Ph.D. Economics*
Department of Economics, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Expected Completion Date: May 2023

References:

Professor Daniel Bernhardt (chair) UIUC, David Kinley Hall 204 (217)-721-1936, danber@illinois.edu	Professor Mark Borgschulte (co-chair) UIUC, David Kinley Hall 204 (217)-300-2088, markborg@illinois.edu
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Professor Adam Osman UIUC, David Kinley Hall 204 (217)-244-3950, aosman@illinois.edu	Professor Darren Lubotsky UIC, University Hall Room 728 (312)-996-6240, lubotsky@uic.edu
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2021 to present *M.Sc. Statistics (Applied)*
Department of Statistics, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Expected Completion Date: May 2023

2015 *M.Sc. Economics*
El Colegio de México, Mexico City, Mexico

2013 *B.A. Economics, summa cum laude*
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City, Mexico

Research Fields:

Primary: Labor Economics and Economics of Migration
Secondary: Development Economics

Teaching Experience:

Department of Economics - University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Teaching Assistant

Spring -Fall 2020	Principles of Economics, Prof. Isaac Dilanni. Ranked as excellent TA
Spring -Fall 2019	Principles of Economics, Prof. Isaac Dilanni. Ranked as excellent TA
Fall 2018	Intermediate Microeconomics, Prof. Bryan Buckley

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2020-2022 Research Assistant, University of Illinois UC for Prof. [Adam Osman](#)

- 2019 Research Assistant, University of Illinois UC for Prof. [Seung-Hyun Hong](#)
- 2015-2017 Research Fellow, Center of Economic Studies, El Colegio de México
- 2015 Visiting Research Assistant, Claremont Graduate University for Prof. [C. Mónica Capra](#)
- 2014 Visiting Research Assistant, Duke University for Prof. [J.C. Suárez-Serrato](#)

Honors, Scholarships and Fellowships:

- 2022 *Morris and Sally Kleiner Labor Economics Prize*, granted by the University of Illinois, Department of Economics.
- 2021 *Paul W. Boltz Fellowship*, University of Illinois, Department of Economics for graduate students who show promise for careers in academia.
- 2020 *Hans Brems Graduate Research Award*, University of Illinois, Department of Economics for the best 3rd-year paper.
- 2019 Departmental Summer Research Award, University of Illinois, Department of Economics.
- 2017 Scholarship: Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (Conacyt), Mexican Government. For doctoral studies in a foreign country.
- 2015 BBVA Bancomer-Colmex Foundation award for excellence. First in class (MSc).
- 2013 Full Scholarship: Master Program, granted by Conacyt. Programa Nacional de Posgrados de Calidad.
- 2013 Honorific mention for excellence during undergraduate studies, granted by the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Grants:

- 2022 Applied Microeconomic Group at the University of Illinois Department of Economics. Grant for data acquisition (\$3,000). TRAC Immigration subscription.
- 2022 Global Research Institute Startup Grant (\$5,040) joint with Luis Baldomero-Quintana (William & Mary) and Daniel Osuna-Gomez (Bank of Mexico)

Professional Activities:

Presentations and Seminars (including scheduled)

- 2022 SEA 92nd Annual Meeting. Presenting “Deportations, Network Disruptions and Undocumented Migration.”
- 2021 ASSA 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting. Presenting “Pricing Like the Competition: Excessive Tax Pass-through and Retail Prices in the Mexican Soda Market.”

- 2017 4th Annual Congress of Economics and Public Policy. Sobre México. Mexico City, Mexico. Presenter of “Skin Color and Social Mobility: Evidence from Mexico.”
- 2015 Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) annual meeting. Santa Cruz, Bolivia. October 15-17. Presenter of “Pass-Through and Competition: The Impact of Soft Drink Taxes Using Mexican Supermarket Stores.”

Referee Services

Canadian Journal of Economics. Economics Bulletin. Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance.

Publications:

“Skin Color and Social Mobility: Evidence from Mexico.” (with Raymundo Campos-Vazquez). 2019, *Demography*, 1-23.

“Pass-through and Competition: The impact of Soft Drink Taxes as Seen through Mexican Supermarkets.” (with Raymundo Campos-Vázquez). 2019, *Latin American Economic Review*.

“Cognitive Ability and Economic Preferences: Evidence from Survey and Experimental Data in Mexico.” (with Raymundo Campos-Vázquez and Roberto Vélez-Grajales). 2018, *Economics Bulletin*, 38(3).

“Social Identity and Skin Color Stereotypes: Aspirations and Cognitive Performance in Young Mexicans.” (with Raymundo Campos-Vázquez). 2018, *El Trimestre Económico*, 85(339).

“Negotiation and Economic Preferences by Gender: Experimental Evidence in Mexico.” (with Raymundo Campos-Vázquez, Eva Arceo and Roberto Vélez). 2018, *El Trimestre Económico*, 85(337).

Job Market Paper:

▪ **“Deportations, Network Disruptions, and Undocumented Migration”**

Abstract: Deportations affect undocumented migrants already in the US and may also affect future migration; relationship potentially mediated by migratory networks. I study the effects of deportations on current and prospective migrants by combining micro-level data on undocumented migrants from Mexico and nationally representative US survey data. I then use an IV strategy that exploits local variation in deportations driven by the staggered rollout of the Secure Communities program (2008-2013), the size of the local undocumented population before activation, and the extent of local authorities’ engagement with the program. Estimates suggest that deportations reduce local undocumented populations more than one-for-one, partly through internal relocations. Long-term, local immigration enforcement reduces the probability that new immigrants settle in a given location even when there is a network connection, and it reduces the probability that incoming flows form new network links. Together, this establishes migrant network disruptions. Moving on new migration, I use a shift-share IV design and data on millions of new undocumented immigrants to estimate the impact of increased exposure to immigration enforcement at the origin via networks. I find that such exposure reduces migrant outflows, indicating a direct deterrence effect. I also find that exposure increases new migrants’ educational attainment, expected wages upon arrival, and the proportion of incoming migrants who speak English, with no effect on the age and gender mix. These findings suggest that migrant networks are widespread and active in the US, and that local immigration enforcement permanently shifts migratory networks, generating new regional migration patterns.

Working Papers:

- “Immediate and Long-lasting Effects of a Depressed Labor Market: Evidence from Mexico After the Great Recession”, with Gerardo Esquivel, Raymundo Campos-Vazquez and Priyasmitta Ghosh. ***R&R Labour Economics***.

Abstract: This paper investigates the magnitude of employment and earnings losses in Mexico induced by the Great Recession. Using longitudinal social security data and exploiting regional variation in local shocks, we identify a variety of labor market responses during the recession. We find that the costs of the recession were substantial and unequal. In the short run, a one standard deviation above the average local shock reduced the probability of employment by 0.53 percent and daily wages by 0.86 percent, compared to pre-recession levels. In the long run, affected formal sector workers never returned to pre-recession levels. The effects of the recession were heterogeneous across workers, and they were disproportionately higher for men and younger workers. Finally, we estimate the different margins of worker’s adjustment in response to the recession. We find that a shock that is one standard deviation above the mean reduced employment by 0.36 percent by the end of the recession, while increasing unemployment by 7.5 percent, informality by 1.1 percent, the economically inactive population by 0.44 percent, and migration from Mexico to the U.S. by 9.2 percent.

- “Not by Land or Air: The Rise of Formal Remittances during COVID-2019”, with Lelys Dinarte, David Jaume and Hernan Winkler. ***Submitted***.

Abstract: Despite concerns that the COVID-19 economic collapse would torpedo international remittances, formal remittances to several developing countries ballooned early in the pandemic. This increase might, however, have reflected a shift from informal channels to formal ones rather than a change in actual flows. This paper employs Mexican data to explore this and finds that remittance channels did change. The rise in formal inflows was larger among municipalities that were previously more reliant on informal channels (for example, near a border crossing). Households there also experienced a disproportionate increase in bank accounts opened after lockdown measures. The paper also rules out hypotheses related to the US Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and altruism.

- “Pricing Like the Competition: Excessive Tax Pass-through and Retail Prices in the Mexican Soda Market”. ***Submitted***.

Abstract: I analyze price adjustments following Mexico’s 2014 tax on sugar-sweetened beverages. First, I show evidence of tax over-shifting: in response to a one-peso tax, retailers increased prices by 1.32 pesos. I find that local competition partially limits over-shifting. Second, when adjusting prices, stores use a “catch-up” strategy where the price of cheaper products increases more than the price of more expensive products. Third, I find evidence of uniform adjustments to the tax at the store-chain level targeting modal prices across chains. Together, these results suggest that retailers facing more competition do in fact lower prices that are initially set by a store's chain and contradict the hypothesis that taxes are smoothly passed into prices.

- “Projecting Trends in Undocumented and Legal Immigrant Populations in the United States”, with Ryan Bhandari, Benjamin Feigenberg and Darren Lubotsky.

Abstract: We use administrative data on over 9 million Matricula (identification) cards issued by the Mexican government between 2008 and 2017 to Mexican-born individuals living the United States to improve estimates of the undocumented foreign-born population. These cards are held by those who do not have legal status in the United States and therefore do not have other forms of valid identification. The key contribution of our work is to use this data to produce estimates of the undocumented population

from Mexico and from other countries, carefully laying out the relevant issues, assumptions, and sources of uncertainty. The ability to use the Matricula data to inform estimates of the undocumented population is particularly important because of the general lack of direct data on this group. Our preferred estimates indicate that there were on average 8.3-8.7 million undocumented Mexican individuals in the United States per year between 2008 and 2012 and 7.5-8.2 million between 2013 and 2017; both estimates are somewhat higher than the well-known estimates produced by the Pew Center. Our estimates of the undocumented immigrant population from other Latin American and Caribbean countries are more closely aligned with those from the Pew Center. Finally, we conclude that Matricula data is unlikely to be useful in estimating the undocumented population from outside of the Latin America and Caribbean region.

- “The Effect of Immigration Enforcement Abroad on Immigrants’ Home-Country Firms”, with Daniel Osuna-Gómez.

Abstract: We investigate the impact of an increase in deportations abroad on immigrants’ home-country firms by leveraging Secure Communities (SC) –the most extensive modern US deportation program- as a natural experiment. We analyze changes in Mexican firm outcomes using the variation in deportee intensity over time and geographies caused by the staggered adoption of SC across US counties and the strength of the migrant network. We uncover that SC increased firm creation and the probability of firm survival in Mexico. An increase in local market size seems to drive these results. We also find that SC caused an increase in Mexican exports and first-time exporters, suggesting long-term productivity increases.

Work in Progress:

- “Dynamic Migrant Networks and the Transmission of Local Business Cycles Across Nations”, with Luis Baldomero-Quintana and Daniel Osuna-Gomez.

Description: We investigate how local business cycles in the United States are transmitted to Mexican communities via migrant networks. We also aim to present empirical evidence that, conditional on housing construction, the local economic cycle can change the dynamic network due to the high elasticity of migration in terms of wage differentials among undocumented migrants. As a result, economic geography models must account for network dynamics that change often in a short period of time.

- “A Data-Driven Approach on Grouping in the Search for Heterogeneous Treatment Effects in RCTs” with Adam Osman and JiHyung Lee.

Description: Recent economics studies show a keen interest in finding heterogeneous treatment effects using machine learning methods. Whether treatment effects depend on covariates, i.e., the conditional average treatment effect (CATE), is a key empirical question. A popularized approach consists of obtaining consistent estimation and inference on features of the CATE rather than the CATE itself, as it avoids relying on strong assumptions needed for accuracy of machine learning methods. We adopt this approach and focus on a particular problem faced by practitioners; the optimal group selection for heterogeneous effects. We suggest a method based on the unsupervised learning algorithm k-means and show an application in a recent microcredit RCT.