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Prior Education:

M.A Economic Theory, ITAM, Mexico City, 2017
B.A Economics, ITAM, Mexico City, Highest Honors, 2015

Graduate Studies:

Harvard University, 2017 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Business Economics
Thesis Title: “Essays in Spatial Economics and Development”
Expected Completion Date: May 2023

References:

Pol Antràs
Harvard University
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Edward Glaeser
Harvard University
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Gabriel Kreindler
Harvard University
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Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary fields: International Trade, Urban Economics
Secondary fields: Development Economics

Teaching Experience:

Fall 2021	Introduction to Data Science (MBA), Harvard Business School, teaching fellow for Professor Iavor Bojinov
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Fall 2020 Econ 2340 (2nd year Ph.D.), Transportation and Development, Harvard, teaching fellow for Professor Gabriel Kreindler

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2019-2021 Research Assistant, Prof. Pol Antràs, Harvard
 Summer 2018 Research Assistant, Prof. Laura Alfaro, Harvard
 2015-2017 Research Assistant, CIE, ITAM

Professional Activities:

Referee: *Journal of International Economics, Quarterly Journal of Economics*

Conference Presentations:

2022 ITAM Alumni Conference, Harvard Trade Lunch, Harvard Development Lunch, Harvard Finance Lunch
 2021 Pacific Conference for Development Economics (PacDEV), Midwest International Economic Development Conference (MWIEDC), Harvard Trade Lunch, Harvard Development Lunch
 2020 North East Universities Consortium (NEUDC), Harvard Trade Lunch, Harvard Industrial Organization Lunch

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2022 Brazil Cities Research Grant, Harvard
 2021 Shultz Fund Research Grant, MIT (with Diana Sverdlin-Lisker)
 2021 IQSS Research Grant, Harvard (with Jose Ramón Enriquez)
 2018 Ex-ITAM Research Prize
 2017 Graduate Student Fellowship, Harvard-Conacyt-FMH
 2015 ITAM Graduate Merit Scholarship

Research Papers:

“*The Spatial Consequences of Financial Frictions: Evidence From Brazil*” (**Job Market Paper**)
 with Bernardus Van Doornik

Abstract: What are the regional and distributional consequences of government subsidies in credit markets? We provide theory and evidence to answer this question using detailed administrative data from Brazil. We build a dynamic spatial general equilibrium model with working capital constraints. We show that spatial linkages through trade, migration, and input-output relationships are crucial to understand the long run consequences of such policies. Guided by the model, we evaluate the long run sectoral and skill composition effects of a credit subsidy place-based policy in Brazil. We exploit the fact that treatment intensity varied discontinuously across a geological border. Using a dynamic regression discontinuity design, we find that, after the credit shock, treated municipalities become more agricultural-oriented and less skill intensive. We estimate the model by matching the reduced-form moments and perform counterfactual simulations to evaluate the regional and distributional effects of credit subsidies. These simulations indicate that credit subsidies differentially increase welfare in richer regions with smaller effects on poorer ones. An alternative policy that improves bankruptcy procedures

through court reform, decreasing the cost of credit in local labor markets, differentially improves welfare in poorer regions.

“Fragmented Markets and the Proliferation of Small Firms: Evidence from Mexico”

with Diana Sverdlin-Lisker

Abstract: Developing countries are characterized by the prevalence of small firms in the retail sector. We explain this phenomenon through a spatial model in which high transport costs lead to small effective market sizes and, consequently, to the proliferation of smaller and lower quality firms. We show that low costs of entry are key for this result. By obtaining a new, confidential panel of firm-level data surveying the universe of mom-and-pop shops in Mexico, we test the implications of our model. We exploit the deregulation of the Mexican gasoline market in 2017 as an exogenous shock on consumer transport costs. Where gas prices increased, the number of mom-and-pop shops differentially increased while their average size and quality fell. We provide evidence of fragmentation and localized demand as the mechanism behind these effects. With our estimated model, we evaluate the welfare consequences of a licensing program in Mexico City which increased costs of entry for mom-and-pop shops. We show that there are modest efficiency gains from having less stores in the market.

“Spatial Mobility, Economic Opportunity, and Crime”

with Gaurav Khanna, Carlos Medina, Anant Nyshadam, Jorge Tamayo, and Audrey Tiew

Abstract: Neighborhoods are strong determinants of both economic opportunity and criminal activity. Does reducing transport costs between segregated and unequal parts of a city predominantly import opportunity or export crime? We use a spatial general equilibrium framework to model individual's decision of where to work and whether to engage in criminal activity, with spillovers across the criminal and legitimate sectors. We match at the individual level various sources of administrative records from Medellín, Colombia to construct a novel, granular dataset recording the origin and destination of both workers and criminals to identify key parameters of the model. We leverage the roll out of a cable car system to identify how changes in transportation costs causally affect the location and sector choices of workers and criminals. Our counterfactual exercises indicate that overall criminal activity in the city is reduced and total welfare is improved for almost all neighborhoods when their connectedness is improved.

Research Papers in Progress:

“An Oligopolistic Model of Export Entry with Strategic Effects”

with Pol Antràs and Eduardo Morales