

JONATHAN GARITA

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate, Economics, University of Texas at Austin, May 2021 (Expected)
Dissertation Title: *“Essays on the Economic Incidence of Minimum Wage Policies”*
M.S., Economics, University of Texas at Austin, 2018
Lic., Economics, University of Costa Rica, Honors, 2012
B.A., Economics, University of Costa Rica, 2011

REFERENCES

Aysegul Sahin (Co-Chair)
Department of Economics
University of Texas at Austin
512-471-3664
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Andreas I. Mueller (Co-Chair)
Department of Economics
University of Texas at Austin
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Stephen Trejo
Department of Economics
University of Texas at Austin
512-475-8425
trejo@austin.utexas.edu

TEACHING AND RESEARCH FIELDS

Fields: Macro-Labor Economics
Sub-Fields: Applied Microeconomics, Industrial Organization

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2020	The Washington Center for Equitable Growth Doctoral Grant (US\$15,000)
2020	Graduate Student Data Grant, University of Texas at Austin
2018-2019	Summer Research Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin
2016	Graduate Student Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

2019	Research Assistant for Professors Nitya Pandalai-Nayar and Christoph E. Boehm.
2014 – 2016	Junior Researcher, Economic Research Department, Central Bank of Costa Rica
2013 – 2014	Research Coordinator. Consejeros Económicos y Financieros S.A., Costa Rica.
2010 – 2013	Research Assistant. Consejeros Económicos y Financieros S.A., Costa Rica.
2012	Research Assistant, Institute for Research in Economic Sciences, University of Costa Rica

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Summer 2020	Probability and Statistics (MA)*, Teaching Assistant for Professor James Scott, University of Texas at Austin
Spring 2020	Economics of the European Union*, Teaching Assistant for Professor Valerie Bencivenga, University of Texas at Austin
Fall 2018, 2020	International Trade and Investment, Teaching Assistant for Professor Nitya Pandalai-Nayar, University of Texas at Austin
Spring 2018	Energy Economics, Teaching Assistant for Professor Michael Sadler, University of Texas at Austin
Fall, 2017	Introduction to Macroeconomics, Teaching Assistant for Professor Michael Sadler, University of Texas at Austin
2012	Introduction to Economics, Instructor, University of Costa Rica
2011-2013	Microeconomic Theory, Public Finance, Teaching Assistant, University of Costa Rica

**Denotes classes for which I prepared and led a weekly review session*

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Conferences:

2020 Central Bank of Costa Rica, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy of Costa Rica, Workshop in Labor Economics-Trier University (Cancelled), Young Economists Symposium (YES), University of Costa Rica (Scheduled), Missouri Valley Economic Association (Scheduled), Empirics and Methods in Economics Conference (Scheduled)

Referee: Journal of Econometrics

PRE-DOCTORAL WORK

Peer Reviewed Publications

- “Misallocation and Productivity in Costa Rica” (2018). OECD Economic Survey of Costa Rica: Research Findings on Productivity, OECD Publishing, Paris. *(With Alonso Alfaro-Urena)*
- “Analysis of the transitional dynamics and duration of unemployment in Costa Rica.” *Revista de Ciencias Económicas* 32.2 (2014). *(With Juan Manuel Castro-Vincenzi and Mariana Odio)*
- “Welfare Effects of Trade Liberalization in Costa Rica, 1995-2006” -In Spanish (2013) *Revista de Ciencias Económicas* 31.2 (2013). *(With Sergio Chacon and Alejandra Lobo)*

WORKING PAPERS

“Firm Dynamics and Minimum Wages: Evidence From Costa Rica’s Occupation-Based System” (*Job Market Paper*)

This paper analyzes the impact of minimum wages on firm entry, firm exit, and the primary margins of response for incumbent firms. I examine Costa Rica’s setting in which minimum wages vary by occupations, levels are highly binding, and increases are sizeable and permanent. I assemble rich administrative data covering the universe of workers and firms in 2006-2017 to construct accurate exposure measures to the minimum wage policy. Minimum wage exposure induces firms to reduce employment, switch towards capital, and attain labor productivity improvements. In compliance with the policy, firms increase their labor shares, suffer a decline in profitability, and are more likely to exit. Finally, raising minimum wages lowers firm entry, with an estimated adverse effect on employment of 0.81 percent.

“Firm Pay Policies, Employment Flows and Minimum Wages?”

This paper provides new evidence on the minimum wage impact on employment flows. I examine Costa Rica's distinctive occupation-based setting in which minimum wage adjustments are sizable and permanent. I construct accurate minimum wage exposure measures and transition rates from administrative data from 2006-2017 to estimate short and longer-term responses to the policy. Results indicate that firms increase their pay premiums in compliance with the policy. Firms reduce their employment levels, with elasticities around -0.1. Minimum wage exposure has a negative and longstanding impact on hiring rates and a positive but transitory effect on separation rates. I rationalize the results with a wage-posting model featuring worker and firm heterogeneity and endogenous job creation.

Other Working Papers

“Endogenous Market Power and the Minimum Wage”

SKILLS

Programs: Stata, R, Matlab, Python (basic)

Languages: English (fluent), Spanish (native), French (basic)