

Jose Morales-Arilla, PhD

Research Professor, Tecnológico de Monterrey's EGTP

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EDUCATION

Harvard University <i>PhD in Public Policy - Economics Track</i>	Cambridge, MA Sept. 2016 – May 2022
Harvard University <i>Master in Public Administration - International Development</i>	Cambridge, MA Sept. 2010 – May 2012
Universidad Católica Andrés Bello <i>“Licenciado” in Economics</i>	Caracas, Venezuela Sept. 2003 – March 2009

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Tecnologico de Monterrey <i>Research Professor at the Graduate School of Government and Public Transformation</i>	June 2024– Mexico City, Mexico
Texas A&M University <i>Assistant Professor at the Bush School of Government and Public Service</i>	Aug. 2023 – May 2024 College Station, TX
Princeton University <i>Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Department of Politics</i>	Aug. 2022 – Aug. 2023 Princeton, NJ
Harvard University <i>Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Harvard's Growth Lab</i>	June 2022 – Aug. 2023 Cambridge, MA
The Brookings Institution <i>Visiting Researcher at the Global Economy and Development Program</i>	Jan. 2021 – Jan. 2022 Washington, DC
Harvard University <i>Doctoral Fellow at Harvard's Growth Lab</i>	June 2020 – Aug. 2021 Cambridge, MA
Harvard University <i>Research Fellow at Harvard's Growth Lab</i>	Sept. 2013 – May 2016 Cambridge, MA

TEACHING

Harvard University Co-authored HKS Case “Defying the Odds: Venezuela’s 2024 Election”	2025
Tecnologico de Monterrey Professor of EO502.5: Métodos Cuantitativos II	Winter 2025
Tecnologico de Monterrey Professor of RE4020.1: Economía del Desarrollo	Summer 2024
Texas A&M University Professor of INTA670: Capstone Seminar on International Affairs	Spring 2024
Texas A&M University Professor of BUSH635: Quantitative Methods II	Spring 2024
Texas A&M University Professor of BUSH631: Quantitative Methods I	Fall 2023
Universidad Católica Andrés Bello Professor of Introduction to Causal Inference (Remote)	Spring 2022
Harvard University Teaching Fellow for Big Data for Economic and Social Problems	Spring 2020
Harvard University Teaching Fellow for Advanced Quantitative Methods	Fall 2019
Harvard University Teaching Fellow for Development Policy Strategy	Fall 2018
Harvard University Co-authored HBS Case “Improving Worker Safety in the Era of Machine Learning”	2017
Universidad Católica Andrés Bello Professor of Political Economy	Fall 2012
Universidad Católica Andrés Bello Lecturer of Macroeconomics	2009 – 2010

SERVICE

Referee: Quarterly Journal of Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Scientific Data, Review of World Economics, Growth & Change.

Seminar organizer: ITESM EGTP’s Doctoral Research Seminar, TAMU Bush School’s Quant Research Seminar.

BOOKS, JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS, CONFERENCE PAPERS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

From collective punishment to constraints on authority: The impact of US sanctions on Venezuela Cambridge University Press	2025
Escaping from hardship, searching for comfort: Climate matching in refugees' destination choices. Journal of Development Economics	2025
Captured participatory institutions: Theory and evidence from the Consejos Comunales. American Journal of Political Science	2025
GLocal: A global development dataset of local administrative areas Scientific Data	2024
Opponent campaign visits in dominant party regimes Journal of Politics	2024
Transparent corruption: Connections, references and the demand for bureaucratic intermediaries Journal of Experimental Political Science	2024
Export side effects of wars on organized crime: The case of Mexico Journal of International Economics	2023
Economic Development in Historical Political Economy The Oxford Handbook of Historical Political Economy	2022
Gains from globalization and protectionism: AMLO v. NAFTA in the 2006 Mexican election Economics & Politics	2022
Is remote work in high demand? Evidence from job postings during COVID-19 COMPASS '21: ACM SIGCAS Conference on Computing and Sustainable Societies	2021

SUBMITTED WORKING PAPERS

Autocrats in crisis mode: Strategic favoritism during economic shocks.
Proximity as a Substitute of Contract Enforcement in Specialized Trade
Vulnerability, fear of discrimination and clientelism: Organizer identity and the backfire of solidarity.
Direct flights, trade and specialization
Coalition trimming in spiraling economies: The case of Venezuela's Oil Czar.

ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

Remoteness and transformation: Why isolated economies can't develop complex productive capabilities
Defend the palace: Autocratic favors for and within capital cities.
The political economy of disaster relief: Theory and evidence on favoritism during national calamities.
Elite redistribution and regime resilience: Appointments and contracts during Venezuela's economic collapse.
Captured participatory institutions as usurpation devices: The case of Venezuela's Consejos Comunales.
The individual effects of political discrimination: Evidence from 2003's <i>Maisanta</i> List in Venezuela.
Do ICC investigations prevent human rights violations? Evidence from Venezuela's political crisis.
Return migration across generations: Evidence from Venezuela's refugee shock.

AWARDS

Mercatus Center <i>James Buchanan Fellowship</i>	2022 – 2023
Mercatus Center <i>Oskar Morgenstern Fellowship</i>	2020 – 2021
Mercatus Center <i>Adam Smith Fellowship</i>	2019 – 2020
Harvard University <i>HKS Distinction in Student Teaching</i>	2019
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Harvard University <i>PhD Program Financial Package Award</i>	2016
Harvard - MIT <i>Winner of the II Annual Energy Case Competition</i>	2012
Harvard Kennedy School <i>Frederick Fisher Memorial Prize for Second-Year Policy Analysis</i>	2012
Harvard Kennedy School <i>MPAID Honorable Mention for Second-Year Policy Analysis</i>	2012
Harvard Kennedy School <i>HIID Full Tuition Scholarship</i>	2010
Universidad Católica Andrés Bello <i>Integral Student Honor</i>	2008
Universidad Católica Andrés Bello <i>Member of UCAB's 10th Honors' Class</i>	2006 – 2007

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

LACEA-LAMES Annual Meeting: “Vulnerability, fear of retaliation and clientelism”	Nov 2025
REPAL Latam Political Economy Conference 2025: “Captured Participatory Institutions”	June 2025
ITESM Forum: “Mexico as a Migration Origin, Destination and Transit Route”	March 2025
Southern Economic Association Conference: “Escaping from hardship, searching for comfort:”	Nov. 2024
LACEA-LAMES Annual Meeting: “Direct Flights, Trade and Specialization”	Nov. 2024
ITAM’s Economic Research Seminar: “Escaping from hardship, searching for comfort:”	Sept. 2024
IDB’s Governance and Development Seminar: “Vulnerability, fear of retaliation and clientelism”	Apr. 2024
Southern Economic Association Conference: “Transparent corruption”	Nov. 2023
Southern Economic Association Conference: “Vulnerability, fear of retaliation and clientelism”	Nov. 2023
NEUDC Conference at Yale University: “Autocrats in crisis mode”	Nov 2022
LACEA-LAMES Annual Meeting: “Autocrats in crisis mode”	Nov 2022
FDZ Rhur at RWI - Causal Inference with Spatial Data: “Autocrats in crisis mode”	May 2022
ACM COMPASS - Computing and Sustainable Societies: “Is remote work in high demand?”	June 2021
Pacific Conference for Development Economics (PacDev): “The economic victims of violence”	March 2021
Southern Economic Association Conference: “Gains from globalization and economic nationalism”	Nov. 2019
Southern Economic Association Conference: “The economic victims of violence”	Nov. 2019
Southern Economic Association Conference: “Solidarity against the machine”	Nov. 2019

POLICY ANALYSES AND DATA VISUALIZATION TOOLS

Mexico Private Country Sector Diagnostic: Sector assessment of the Mexican Autoparts Industry.	IFC, 2025
Predicción y pronóstico temprano de actividad económica: Data satelital y administrativa para proyectar el crecimiento trimestral de El Salvador.	ITESM, 2025
La Complejidad Económica de El Salvador: Usando proximidades tecnológicas para identificar oportunidades de diversificación productiva	ITESM, 2024
Prosperity over conflict: Leveraging economic interdependence for offshore energy developments in the Levant.	Mosbacher, 2024
Economic Integration of Venezuelan Immigrants in Colombia: A Policy Roadmap.	CGD, 2022
Remote work wanted? Analyzing online job postings during COVID-19.	Brookings, 2021
Impact of the 2017 sanctions on Venezuela: Revisiting the evidence.	Brookings, 2019
Sanctions on Venezuela: Cause or consequence of the crisis?	Prodavinci, 2019
Economic Complexity and Technological Relatedness: Findings for American Cities.	Brookings, 2019
Growing Cities That Work for All: A Capabilities Approach to Regional Competitiveness.	Brookings, 2019
There is a Future After Cars: Economic growth analysis for Hermosillo.	CID-Harvard, 2018
Tabasco: Reporte de Complejidad Económica.	CID-Harvard, 2018
Campeche: Reporte de Complejidad Económica.	CID-Harvard, 2018
Baja California: Reporte de Complejidad Económica.	CID-Harvard, 2018
Diversificación y desarrollo en Venezuela: ¿Qué hacer si el petróleo ya no basta?	Prodavinci, 2018
Panama beyond the Canal: Technological proximity and opportunities for diversification.	CID-Harvard, 2017
Economic Complexity in Panama: Assessing opportunities for productive diversification.	CID-Harvard, 2016
Reforma económica de Venezuela: Pobreza, Misiones y protección social.	CID-Harvard, 2016
Rethinking the Taboo: Gasoline Subsidies in Venezuela.	MPAID-Harvard, 2012
Direct Distribution of Oil Revenues in Venezuela: A Viable Alternative?	CGD, 2012
Data visualization tools: GLocal Dataset, Metroverse, The Atlas of Economic Complexity, and Subnational Atlases of Economic Complexity for Mexico, Colombia and Peru.	CID-Harvard, 2014-2024

LEADERSHIP

Harvard University <i>Vice-President of the Harvard Venezuelan Student Association</i>	2020 – 2021
Harvard Kennedy School <i>President of the Venezuelan Caucus</i>	2010 – 2011
IESA-UCAB <i>Graduate of the 1st “Lidera” Youth Leadership Program</i>	2009 – 2010
Comunidad de Debate <i>NGO’s Founding President</i>	2007 – 2010
Universidad Católica Andrés Bello <i>Student Elected Representative</i>	2007 – 2008

MISCELLANEOUS

Nationalities: Venezuelan and Spanish.

Languages: Spanish, English and Portuguese.

Research Software: Stata, R, Python, Matlab, ArcGIS, Gephi, LaTeX.

Opinion: Commentator for Project Syndicate, Caracas Chronicles, Prodavinci and other media outlets.

REFERENCES

Ricardo Hausmann - ricardo.hausmann@hks.harvard.edu

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