Jose Ramon Moran

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EDUCATION

University of Michigan   Ann Arbor, USA
Ph.D. in Economics   2017–Expected 2024
M.A. in Economics   2017–2019

Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México   Mexico City, MEX
M.A. in Economic Theory   2013 –2017
B.A. in Economics   2008 –2013

RESEARCH FIELDS

International Economics (primary) and Macroeconomics (secondary)

WORKING PAPERS

- **"Natural Disasters, and Scarring Effects"** joint with Weicheng Lian and Raadhika Vishvesh
  IMF Working Paper No. 2022/253, December 2022

  Medium-term scarring of natural disasters can emerge if the immediate damage caused by an extremely large shock results in persistent disruption to production capacity. This paper uses a novel empirical approach, following the literature on hysteresis, to explore this issue for countries vulnerable to natural disasters. By quantifying the dynamic effects of natural disasters on real GDP per capita for a large number of episodes using a synthetic control approach (SCA) and focusing on severe shocks, we demonstrate that a persistently large deviation of real GDP per capita from the counterfactual trend exists five years after a severe shock in many countries. The findings highlight the importance and urgency of building ex-ante resilience to avoid scarring effects for countries prone to natural disasters, such as those in the Caribbean region

WORK IN PROGRESS

- **"Rules of Origin and the Use of NAFTA"** joint with Alfonso Cebreros   **Job Market Paper**
  In countries with a Free Trade Agreement, firms can export using the FTA or WTO membership, the former requiring firms to comply with Rules of Origin to avoid paying higher tariffs when exporting. How do RoO affect firms' use of an FTA? What are the effects of protectionist trade policies? Using Mexican customs data in which we observe if an export used NAFTA, we document (i) How firm size affects its use, where the underlying mechanism is fixed costs of using NAFTA and sourcing from foreign countries, and (ii) The distortion RoO have on firms' input sourcing decisions, where the opportunity cost of complying with RoO depends on firm size. We incorporate these findings into a model of global sourcing in which firms choose to export using NAFTA and from which countries to source their inputs. We structurally estimate these fixed costs and perform counterfactuals that quantify how increases in RoO or Tariffs would result, across all sectors, in higher import prices for US consumers, lower profits for Mexican firms, and lower bilateral trade between the USA and Mexico.

- **"Information Spillovers in Export Destinations"**
  How do information spillovers affect firms' entry and exit decisions from export markets? We refer as information spillovers to the fact that when firms have demand uncertainty but learn through exporting, firms not only learn about the destination of their exports but also about other similar destinations. This paper provides empirical evidence on the existence of these spillovers and builds a model of export supply and learning in which entry into a destination is

influenced by its informativeness and a firm's export experience. Using Mexican customs data, we structurally estimate the parameters shaping information spillovers and perform counterfactual exercises to evaluate how these contribute to the geographical spread of exports and how an RTA aimed at increasing bilateral trade between member countries could result in the diversification of export destinations by allowing firms to learn about their profitability in third-markets.

- **"Global Supply Chains and Regional Shocks"** joint with Nadim Elayan
  This paper explores how regional shocks affect the formation of global supply chains, recognizing the trade-off firms face when choosing the sourcing location of their inputs. On the one hand, sourcing from similar countries entails a lower risk of being exposed to regional shocks but on the other, it implies firms are less able to take advantage of the pattern of comparative advantage across the World. Using customs data on Mexican firms we document how firms weigh this trade-off, whether there is sectoral heterogeneity in this behavior, and study whether this heterogeneity is the result of sector-specific input complementarity. We build a model of global sourcing that accounts for comparative advantage being driven by geographical location and exposure to regional shocks. With our model, we explore the effects that an episode of increased regional risk, namely the COVID-19 global pandemic, had on firms' global supply chain formation.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

International Monetary Fund   Washington DC, USA
Summer Intern at the Western Hemisphere Department   Summer 2021

Banco de México   Mexico City, MEX
Economist at the General Directorate of Economic Research   2013 –2017

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan   Ann Arbor, USA
Research Assistant for Professor Kyle Handley   Summer 2020
Research Assistant for Professor Andrei Levchenko   Summer 2018 and 2019

Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México   Mexico City, MEX
Research Assistant for Professor Kensuke Teshima and Professor Rahul Giri   2012 –2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Head Graduate Student Instructor** at University of Michigan   Fall 2021 and 2022, Summer 2022
  Intermediate Macroeconomics (ECON 402), Professor Edward Cho

- **Head Graduate Student Instructor** at University of Michigan   Fall 2020, Winter 2021, 2022 and 2023
  Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 102), Professor Edward Cho

- **Graduate Student Instructor** at University of Michigan   Fall 2023
  Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 101), Professor Jeffrey Ward

- **Graduate Student Instructor** at University of Michigan   Winter 2020
  Government Regulation of Industry (ECON 432), Professor Zach Brown

- **Graduate Student Instructor** at University of Michigan   Fall 2018 and 2019, Winter 2019
  Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 102), Professor Edward Cho

- **Teaching Assistant** at Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México   Fall 2016
  Applied Macroeconometrics (ECO-10517), Professor Ignacio Lobato

- **Teaching Assistant** at Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México   Winter 2016
  Advanced Microeconometrics (graduate) (ECO-20513), Professor Igor Kheifets

- **Teaching Assistant** at Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México   Winter 2016
  Applied Microeconometrics (ECO-10516), Professor Igor Kheifets

Fellowships and Awards

- **Summer Research Fellowship** at University of Michigan   Summer 2018 and 2019
- **Graduate Studies Fellowship** at University of Michigan   2017–2018
- **Graduate Studies Scholarship** at Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México   2014–2017

Skills

- **Statistical Computing:**   Stata, R, EViews
- **Numerical Computing:**   MATLAB
- **Geographic Information:**   ArcGIS
- **Document Editor:**   LaTex, Office

Languages

- **Spanish:** Native
- **English:** Fluent
- **German:** Basic

Professional Service

- Admissions Committee at University of Michigan   2019, 2020
  Member of the Ph.D. Admissions Committee for the Economics Department at the University of Michigan

- Gaceta de Economía at Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México   2014–2016
  Member of the Editorial Committee and later Co-Director of ITAM's student-led economics journal

References

Andrei Levchenko (Co-chair)
Professor, Department of Economics
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Sebastián Sotelo (Co-chair)
Associate Professor, Department of Economics
University of Michigan
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Zach Brown
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics
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Edward Cho (Teaching)
Lecturer IV, Department of Economics
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