

Nils Haakon Lehr

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Current Position

International Monetary Fund

Economist Program

Western Hemisphere Department — Regional Studies & Mexico

Washington, DC, USA

Sept 2024–Present

Education

Boston University

Ph.D., Economics

Boston, MA, USA

2023

Barcelona School of Economics

M.S., Economics

Barcelona, Spain

2016

Humboldt University Berlin

B.S., Economics

Berlin, Germany

2014

Research Interests

Macroeconomics, Economic Growth, Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Firm Dynamics, Labor Markets

Publications

“Nonprofits in Good Times and Bad Times” (with Christine Exley and Stephen Terry)

Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics 1(1), 42–79, 2023

Working Papers

“Price of Intelligence: How Should Socially-minded Firms Price and Deploy AI?” (with Pascual Restrepo), September 2025

Conditionally Accepted, *Journal of Monetary Economics*

“Did R&D Misallocation Contribute to Slower Growth?” September 2025

Reject & Resubmit, *Review of Economic Studies*

“Does Monopsony Matter for Innovation?” January 2025

Revise & Resubmit, *Econometrica*

“Optimal Gradualism” (with Pascual Restrepo), February 2024

“Innovation in an Aging Economy” October 2023

Ongoing Projects

“The Impact of Rising Minimum Wages in Mexico” (with Johanna Schauer and Hugo Tuesta), 2025

“The Not So Simple Economics of Simplified Regimes”, 2025

“Automation and Misallocation”, 2025

Policy Work

Mexico Article IV 2025: Annexes on productivity growth in Mexico and its connection with international trade, and on rising minimum wages.

WHD Regional Economic Outlook 2025: Analytical chapter (“Fostering Growth through Business Dynamism.”) on the firm-level sources of low productivity and slow productivity growth in Latin America.

Presentations

2026: American Economic Association Meetings (scheduled)

2025: Society for Economic Dynamics Conference, Boston University TPRI Workshop, IMF Jobs, Growth, and Structural Reforms Seminar, Carnegie-Rochester-NYU Conference on Public Policy, Midwest Macro Conference

2024: IMF WHD Seminar, Boston Federal Reserve Bank, Global Entrepreneurship and Innovation Research Conference, Econometric Society European Meetings

2023: Society for Economic Dynamics Conference, North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society, American Economic Association Meetings, University of Toronto (Rotman), Imperial College London, CREI and Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Dartmouth College (Tuck), Duke University (Fuqua)

2022: European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society, Green Line Macro Meeting

2021: Workshop on Entrepreneurial Finance and Innovation, ZEW International Conference

2020: Green Line Macro Meeting

Professional Experience

International Monetary Fund

Economist Program

Washington, DC, USA

Sept 2024–Present

Cornerstone Research

Associate, Economics Practice

Boston, MA

Sept 2023–June 2024

Deloitte LLP

Senior Associate, Economic Consulting

London, UK

Sept 2016–June 2017

Teaching Experience

Boston University

Teaching Assistant, EC704: Advanced Macroeconomics (Ph.D. Level)

Spring 2019

Boston University

Teaching Assistant, EC102: Macroeconomics

Winter 2018

Honors & Awards

2019–2020: Best Second Year Paper Award, Department of Economics, Boston University

Referee Service

American Economic Review, Review of Economic Studies, Review of Economics and Statistics, Econometrica, Management Science, Review of Economic Dynamics, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization

Additional Information

Languages: Fluent in English and German; Intermediate Spanish

Citizenship: Germany (G4 Visa)

References

Prof. Stephen J. Terry

Department of Economics

University of Michigan

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Prof. Pascual Restrepo

Department of Economics

Yale University

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Prof. Tarek A. Hassan

Department of Economics

Boston University

✉ thassan@bu.edu