

OSCAR CONTRERAS, PhD

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EDUCATION

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, U.S.

Ph.D., Economics

2013

M.A., Economics

2010

Center for Economic Research and Teaching (CIDE), Mexico City, Mexico

B.A. (*summa cum laude*), Economics

2005

Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden

Exchange student, Statistics and Economics

2004

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Milken Institute

Associate Director/Economist – Research Department

Dec 2019 - present

- Conduct research and prepare reports on various economic topics such as international capital flows, ESG investing, and financial literacy
- Lead day-to-day work on specific projects and initiatives related to International Finance
- Contribute to developing the Department's research agenda
- Manage and mentor team of data analysts

Central Bank of Mexico

Senior Economist – Research Department (Monetary Affairs Unit)

Jan 2018 – Nov 2019

- Developed econometric models for forecasting and scenario analysis
- Prepared policy notes on current economic and financial developments
- Contributed to institutional publications, including the Quarterly Inflation Report
- Conducted original research on macroeconomic and financial topics

Summer Intern – Research Department (Macroeconomic Studies)

Summer 2010

- Developed and estimated a macroeconomic model with financial intermediaries
- Analyzed how financial frictions propagate shocks to the real economy

Economist – Research Department (Macroeconomic Analysis Unit)

Apr 2005 – Aug 2007

- Drafted weekly notes on economic data releases and financial market developments
- Maintained and updated economic and financial databases
- Assisted in the formulation of senior management briefings
- Worked with senior economists on various research projects (e.g., understanding business cycles in Mexico and the U.S., calculating the natural rate of unemployment, etc.)

University College for Financial Studies (CUNEF), Madrid, Spain

Assistant Professor

Sep 2013 – Dec 2017

- Conducted high-quality research on a range of economic issues, including political instability and foreign investment, housing market regulations, and financial market frictions.
- Taught courses on strategic management, organizational design, and microeconomics.

SOFTWARE SKILLS

Programming: R, Python, SQL, MATLAB, STATA, E-Views, Dynare

Statistics and Data Analysis: Causal Analysis (Experiments, IV, DID, RD, Matching), Hypothesis Testing, Predictive Modeling (Random Forests, Boosting, Clustering), Time-Series (VARs, SVARs, Kalman Filter)

PUBLICATIONS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

- "Global Opportunity Index 2021: Focus on Latin America" (with J. Bendix, B. Smith, and C. Lopez), *Milken Institute*, February 4, 2021.
- "Improving the ESG Rating Landscape," *Milken Institute Review*, November 16, 2020.
- "ESG Ratings: The Road Ahead" (with C. Lopez and J. Bendix), *Milken Institute*, 2020.
- "Gender Equality Discussion within the G20"
- "Political Uncertainty and Foreign Investment," *R&R Journal of Development Economics*
- "Relational Contracts, Financing Constraints and Welfare," *R&R AEJ: Microeconomics*
- "Managing Social Comparison Costs in Organizations," *R&R Management Science*
- "Foreclosure and Strategic Default: Evidence from Spain," *in progress*
- "Competition and Pension Funds: Evidence from Mexico," *in progress*

MEDIA COVERAGE

- FDI Intelligence (March 2, 2021): "Europe Dethrones Asia's City States in FDI Appeal."
- América Economía (Chile / Feb. 23, 2021): "Chile gana la carrera por atraer inversión extranjera en América Latina: supera a Uruguay y Costa Rica."

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

Banco de México (2017, 2012, 2010); 2nd Workshop on Relational Contracts (CUNEF, 2016); SIOE (Sciences Po, 2016); ThRed Conference (ECARES–Université Libre de Bruxelles, 2015); Workshop on Relational Contracts (Ludwig Maximilians Universität, 2015); European Meeting of the Econometric Society (Toulouse School of Economics, 2014); ISNIE (Duke University, 2014); CUNEF (2013); Yeshiva University (2013); CRA–Washington, D.C. (2013); Cornerstone Research–Boston (2013); Princeton University (2012); Northwestern University (2012, 2010)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

CUNEF, Instructor	2013 – 2017
Strategic Management; Organizational Design; Microeconomics	
Northwestern University, Teaching Assistant	2008 – 2013
Advanced Workshop for Central Bankers; Corporate Finance; International Finance; Monopoly, Competition, and Public Policy; Introduction to Macroeconomics; Intermediate Microeconomics; Introduction to Microeconomics	

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Dissertation Year Fellowship, <i>Northwestern University</i>	2012
Tuition and Stipend Fellowship, <i>Northwestern University</i>	2008 – 2012
University Fellowship, <i>Northwestern University</i>	2007 – 2008
1st place, Mexican National Examination in Economics, <i>CENEVAL</i>	2005
Academic Excellence Scholarship (Best overall GPA), <i>CIDE</i>	2002 – 2005
Linnaeus-Palme Scholarship, <i>Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency</i>	2004

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Citizenship: Mexican (U.S. Permanent Resident)
Languages: English (fluent), Spanish (native)