Diana Van Patten

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Placement Director: Lee Ohanian, ohanian@econ.ucla.edu.
Graduate Administrator: Chiara Paz, chiara@econ.ucla.edu.

Education

University of California, Los Angeles.
Ph.D. in Economics, June 2020 (Expected).
M.A. in Economics, December 2015.

Universidad de Costa Rica, San José, Costa Rica.
B.Sc., Economics (*Honors*), October 2013.

Research Interests

Primary: Macroeconomics, Economic Development.

Secondary: International Trade, Economic Geography.

References

Prof. Ariel Burstein (co-chair)
Department of Economics, UCLA.
arielb@econ.ucla.edu,
(310) 206-6732.

Prof. Lee Ohanian (co-chair)
Department of Economics, UCLA.
ohanian@econ.ucla.edu,
(310) 825-0979.

Prof. Pablo Fajgelbaum
Department of Economics, UCLA.
pfajgelbaum@econ.ucla.edu,
(310) 794-7241.

Prof. Michela Giorcelli
Department of Economics, UCLA.
mgiorcelli@econ.ucla.edu,
(650) 630-9648.

Prof. Walker Hanlon
Department of Economics, NYU Stern.
whanlon@stern.nyu.edu.

Research Experience

Federal Research Bank of Atlanta, *Visiting Scholar*, Summer 2019.

Dartmouth College, *Department of Economics, Visiting Fellow*, Winter 2019.

Federal Research Bank of Minneapolis, *AEA Research Fellow*, July - September 2018.

Federal Research Bank of Saint Louis, *Visiting Fellow*, June 2018.

The World Bank, *Short-Term Consultant*, Winter - Spring 2018.

Research Assistance

Lee Ohanian; Fall 2016, Winter 2016, Summer 2016, Summer 2017, Winter 2018.

Pablo Fajgelbaum; Fall 2017, Fall 2018.

Banco Central de Costa Rica, *Junior Researcher*, February 2013 - August 2014.

Teaching Experience

University of California, Los Angeles

Instructor

Math Camp for Economics Graduate Students; Summer 2016, Summer 2017.
Principles of Macroeconomics; Summer 2017.
Intermediate Microeconomics; Spring 2018.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Macroeconomics (Prof. Lee Ohanian); Fall 2016, Fall 2018.
Macroeconomic Implications of Globalization (Prof. Ariel Burstein); Spring 2017.

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

Principles of Microeconomics; Fall 2017, Winter 2017, Spring 2019.
Principles of Macroeconomics; Spring 2016, Winter 2018.

Universidad de Costa Rica, San José, Costa Rica.

Teaching Assistant, Spring 2011 - Spring 2013.

Professional Activities

Conferences and Presentations (*poster; †by coauthor; ‡scheduled)

2019 Dartmouth College, UCLA, Workshop on Macroeconomic Dynamics, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Economic History Association Meetings*, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

2018 University of Minnesota, European Economic Association Meetings,† UCLA, Banco Central de Costa Rica, North East Universities Development Consortium†, Cornell University†.

Referee Macroeconomic Dynamics

Honors and Awards

Dissertation Year Fellowship, Department of Economics, UCLA, 2019.
International Economics Fellowship, Dartmouth College, 2019
Best Teaching Assistant Award, Department of Economics, UCLA, 2019
Summer Economics Fellowship, American Economic Association and NSF, 2018
Best Student Seminar Award for International Trade, UCLA, 2017-2018.
Teaching Assistant Fellowship, Department of Economics, UCLA, 2015-2019.
Best Annual GPA of the Department of Economics, Universidad de Costa Rica, 2011-2012.
3rd highest mark, national higher educ. standardized tests, Ministry of Public Educ., Costa Rica, 2008.

Skills

Computational: STATA, SPSS, Matlab, GIS, ArcGIS.
Languages: English (fluent), Spanish (native).

Other

Nationality: Costa Rican.
DOB: 03/20/1991.

Job Market Paper

"Multinationals, Monopsony and Local Development: Evidence from the United Fruit Company" (with Esteban Méndez-Chacón).

This paper studies the short- and long-run effects of large firms on economic development. We use evidence from one of the largest multinationals of the 20th Century: The United Fruit Company (UFC). The firm was given a large land concession in Costa Rica — one of the so-called "Banana Republics"— from 1889 to 1984. Using administrative census data with census-block geo-references from 1973 to 2011, we implement a geographic regression discontinuity (RD) design that exploits a quasi-random assignment of land. We find that the firm had a positive and persistent effect on living standards. Regions within the UFC were 26% less likely to be poor in 1973 than nearby counterfactual locations, with only 63% of the gap closing over the following 3 decades. Company documents explain that a key concern at the time was to attract and maintain a sizable workforce, which induced the firm to invest heavily in local amenities that likely account for our result. We then build a dynamic spatial model in which a firm's labor market power *within* a region depends on how mobile workers are *across* locations and run counterfactual exercises. The model is consistent with observable spatial frictions and the RD estimates, and shows that the firm increases aggregate welfare by 2.9%. This effect is increasing in worker mobility: If workers were half as mobile, the firm would have *decreased* aggregate welfare by 6%. The model also shows that a local monopsonist compensates workers mostly through local amenities keeping wages low, and leads to higher welfare levels than a counterfactual with perfectly competitive labor markets in all regions, if we assume amenities have productivity spillovers.

Working Papers

"International Technology Diffusion: Accounting for Differences in Learning Abilities".

An important question in the field of economic growth and development is how developing countries learn to adopt and use new technologies. My paper contributes to the burgeoning literature on the process of technology transfer by shedding new light on how countries learn from each other through international trade. First, I document how productivity grows systematically faster for industries that trade with partners with better technologies, but that this is decreasing thegapbetween the local and foreign productivity. Second, I build a model where knowledge transfers can occur through imported technology. In my framework, agents have heterogenous learning abilities: the probability of adopting a technology is decreasing in the technological gap between the partners. I document how the model matches the empirical dependence of productivity growth on productivity gaps, and the firm size distribution.My analysis shows that, for growth miracles, trade can account for up to 30 percent of their productivity dynamics, highlights how ignoring differences in learning abilities can overestimate the impact of exposure to high-TFP trading partners, leading to suboptimal trade policies.

"Bretton Woods and the Reconstruction of Europe"
(with Lee Ohanian, Paulina Restrepo-Echavarria and Mark Wright)

The Bretton Woods international financial system, which was in place from roughly 1949 to 1973, is the most significant modern policy experiment to attempt to simultaneously manage international payments, international capital flows, and international currency values. This paper uses an international macroeconomic accounting methodology to study the Bretton Woods system and finds that it: (i) significantly distorted both international and domestic capital markets and hence the accumulation and allocation of capital; (ii) significantly slowed the reconstruction of Europe, albeit while limiting the indebtedness of European countries. Our results also provide support for the utility of the accounting methodology in that it finds a sharp change in the behavior of domestic and international capital market wedges that coincides with the breakdown of the system.

"Bridging India and Bangladesh: Cross-border Trade and the BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement" (with Matías Herrera Drappe and Mathilde Lebrand).

This paper studies the effects of changing current trade barriers between Bangladesh and India on national welfare, and on the distribution of people and Real GDP in regions within these countries. We use a spatial general equilibrium model calibrated to these two economies, along with road network travel-time calculated using GPS data, to measure changes in economic outcomes given changes in trade costs across regions. In particular, we focus on three scenarios: (i) allowing traffic of vehicles transporting goods along the routes specified in the BBIN motor vehicle agreement (MVA); (ii) changes in traffic and trade of vehicles transporting goods along the routes specified in the MVA; and (iii) complete integration allowing traffic and trade of vehicles transporting goods across any route. Our counterfactual exercises show that decreasing trade barriers between these two countries can lead to up to a 1.4 and 1.1 percent increase in national welfare for India and Bangladesh, respectively.

Work in Progress

"Foreign Investment, Productivity Spillovers and Environmental Effects: Evidence from the United Fruit Company" (with Esteban Méndez-Chacón).

The United Fruit Company wasoperated in Costa Rica from 1899 to 1984. After this large multinational stopped operations, the land where it was operating through a concession(4% of the country's territory) was sold to many different landowners. This paper usesAgricultural Census data geo-referenced at the census-block level from 1964-2014 to study the effects of this land reform in terms of productivityandenvironmental impact.Outcome variables available in the Census—which covers the universe of agricultural producers—include output, type of crop, workers, capitalby type and volume of fertilizers used. Preliminary results using pre-1984 data show that the UFC's production wasmore capital intensive than production in nearby counterfactual locations, but also used fertilizers more intensively. Results using data after 1984 will be available soon.

"Spatial and Aggregate Effects of Transport Network and Public Service Investments in Argentina" (with Pablo Fajgelbaum).

"Productivity, Business Cycles, and Trade: Evidence from Chile" (with Vladimir Smirnyagin).

Publications (Pre-PhD)

"A Composite Leading Indicator of Economic Activity in Costa Rica" (with Carlos Chaverri). *Revista Economia y Sociedad, August 2014,19, pp. 56 - 76.*