

Juan S. Morales

Business Address

Department of Economics
University of Toronto
150 St. George Street
Toronto, ON M5S 3G7
Canada

Home Address

575 Davos Rd
Woodbridge, ON, L4H0X4
Canada

Phone: +1-416-786-7209

Email: juan.morales@utoronto.ca

Web: <http://individual.utoronto.ca/jsmorales/>

Citizenship	Canadian, Colombian
Languages	Spanish (native), English (fluent), Italian (basic), French (basic)
Research Interests	Development Economics Political Economy Applied Microeconomics
Teaching Interests	Quantitative Methods Development Economics Political Economy

Education

2012-present	PhD, Economics, University of Toronto <i>Dissertation:</i> Essays on the Political Economy of Conflict: Evidence from Colombia <i>Committee:</i> Gustavo J. Bobonis (supervisor), Albert Berry, Marco Gonzalez-Navarro, Michel Serafinelli
2008-2009	MA, Economics, University of Toronto (doctoral stream)
2004-2008	B. Computer Science, University of Waterloo (honours)

Working Papers

Legislating During War: Conflict and Politics in Colombia
(*Job Market Paper*)

The Impact of Internal Displacement on Destination Communities: Evidence from the Colombian Conflict
Revise and resubmit, Journal of Development Economics

Conditional Cash Transfers for Women and Spousal Violence: Evidence of the Long-Term Relationship from the Oportunidades Program in Rural Mexico (with Gustavo J. Bobonis and Roberto Castro)

Revise and resubmit, Journal of Human Resources

Professional Experience

Research Assistant:

- Arthur Blouin, Department of Economics, University of Toronto (2015)
- Gustavo J. Bobonis, Department of Economics, University of Toronto (2009, 2012-2014)
- Anindya Sen, Department of Economics, University of Waterloo (2008)

Teaching Assistant:

- ECO403: Topics in Development Economics and Policy (2014, 2017)
- ECO220: Quantitative Methods in Economics (2008-2009, 2013-2016)
- ECO368: Economics of Conflict (2015-2016)
- ECO334: Political Economy (2015-2016)
- ECO306: American Economic History (2013, 2015-2016)
- ECO324: Economic Development (2012-2013)

Other:

- 2011-2013, Data Analyst, Program on Globalization and Regional Innovation Systems, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto
- 2010-2011, Research Analyst, Toronto Region Research Alliance (Toronto, ON, Canada)
- 2009-2010, Software Analyst, ComputerTalk Technology (Richmond Hill, ON, Canada)

Conferences and Seminar Presentations

- 2016 University of Toronto CEPA, CDESG-CEA Annual Conference (University of Ottawa), 41 SAEe (scheduled; University of the Basque Country, Bilbao)
- 2015 CEA Annual Conference (Ryerson University, Toronto), HiCN 11th Annual Workshop (University of Toronto), LACEA Labor Network conference: *Are labor markets in Latin America prepared for the new challenges?* (PUC, Santiago)
- 2014 University of Toronto CEPA Brown Bag

Awards

Graduate Fellowship, University of Toronto, 2008-2009, 2012-2016
Tom Easterbrook Graduate Scholarship in Communications and the Mass Media, 2015
Inter-American Development Bank, Research Grant (with G.J. Bobonis and R. Castro), 2014
Graduation with Distinction, University of Waterloo, 2008

Other Barcelona GSE, Summer School in Political Economy, 2016

Refereeing *Economic Development and Cultural Change*

Computer Skills STATA, Python, MATLAB, Java, C/C++, VBA, SQL

References

Gustavo J. Bobonis

Associate Professor

Department of Economics

University of Toronto

Email: gustavo.bobonis@utoronto.ca

Albert Berry

Professor Emeritus

Munk School of Global Affairs and Department of Economics

University of Toronto

Email: berry2@chass.utoronto.ca

Marco Gonzalez-Navarro

Assistant Professor

CIRHR, Economics, and UTSC Management

University of Toronto

Email: marco.gonzalez.navarro@utoronto.ca

Michel Serafinelli

Assistant Professor

Department of Economics

University of Toronto

Email: michel.serafinelli@utoronto.ca

Jennifer Murdock (teaching reference)

Associate Professor, Teaching Stream

Department of Economics

University of Toronto

Email: jennifer.murdock@utoronto.ca

Dissertation Abstract

Legislating during war: Conflict and politics in Colombia

(job market paper)

Violence, weak governance, and poor economic development are highly correlated across countries. However, the process through which fragile states resolve internal conflicts and strengthen governance is not well understood. This paper studies an important aspect of this process: the relationship between civil conflict and policymaking. I exploit variation in the timing and the location of attacks by Colombia's main rebel group, FARC, to analyze the response of politicians and their constituents to conflict events. To measure these responses, I use data from politicians' roll-call voting records and their Twitter accounts. I use both an event study design and a difference-in-differences research strategy to estimate the causal relationships of interest. The analysis reveals that, before the government started negotiations with the rebels, politicians in congress were more likely to align their legislative votes with the right-leaning ruling party following an attack. However, this relationship breaks down after the peace process starts in 2012. In addition, politicians are particularly responsive to attacks which occur in their electoral district. I use text analysis to create a measure of the political leaning of politicians' tweets to investigate the responses of their followers. I find that both tweets from incumbent politicians and tweets which exhibit "right-wing" language receive higher user engagement (a proxy for popular support) following rebel attacks. The empirical results are consistent with a political economy model of legislative behaviour in which events that shift median voter preferences, and the presence of *rally 'round the flag* effects, elicit different politician responses depending on the policy position of the ruling party.

The impact of internal displacement on receiving communities: Evidence from the Colombian conflict

(revise and resubmit, Journal of Development Economics)

More than ten percent of the population of Colombia has been forced to migrate due to civil war. This study employs an enclave IV strategy, which exploits social distance between origin and destination locations, as well as conflict induced migration, to estimate the impact that the arrival of displaced individuals has on local residents. I compare the effects on four different subgroups of the population, partitioned by skill (low-skilled versus high-skilled) and by gender. The analysis suggests that a conflict-induced increase in population leads to a short-run negative effect on wages. Though the impact tends to dissipate over time for most groups, it persists for low-skilled women. The arrival of internally displaced people also affects local access to public goods, I find a negative effect on access to piped water, and a positive effect on access to trash collection services.

Democratic openings and political polarization *(in progress)*

I propose a model of legislative bargaining under proportional representation to investigate the effects of "democratic openings" in conflict settings. A rebel group aims to overthrow the government. Given certain concessions, however, the rebel group is willing to cease fighting in return for representation in the legislature. The model illustrates how the possibility of the rebels obtaining political representation generates a discontinuity in the actions of electorally motivated legislators with continuously distributed preferences, leading to increased political polarization. Evidence from voting in the Colombian legislature and the government's recent peace process with FARC reveal patterns consistent with the predictions of the model.