

Itzel De Haro López

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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin-Madison	
Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics	May 2023, expected
Committee: Priya Mukherjee, Dominic Parker, and Laura Schechter (Chair)	
M.S. in Agricultural and Applied Economics	2019
Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE), Mexico City	
B.A. in Economics	2013

FIELDS OF CONCENTRATION

Development Economics, Labor Economics, Crime Economics

WORKING PAPERS

- Avocados: Mexico's green gold. The U.S. opioid crisis and its impact on Mexico's drug cartel violence. [JOB MARKET PAPER]
- The effect of NAFTA on violence and economic growth in Mexico's avocado sector.
- Impact of gender imbalance in women's education and migratory decisions: evidence from Mexico.

POLICY PUBLICATIONS

Ishizawa, O., Miranda, J., & **De Haro, I.** (2017). "Assessment of the economic impact of investment in disaster risk reduction and prevention : the case of Tabasco (English)." The World Bank.

Ishizawa, O., Miranda, J., Paredes, M., **De Haro, I.**, & Pedrozo, A. (2017). "Analysis of the Impact of Investments in Disaster Risk Reduction and Prevention in Mexico: Case Study of Tabasco between 2007 and 2011." The World Bank.

OECD (2016), "OECD Reviews of Regulatory Reform: Regulatory Policy in Peru, Assembling the Framework for Regulatory Quality."

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Priya Mukherjee, University of Wisconsin-Madison	Summer 2022
Research Assistant to Cesar A. Cancho, The World Bank	Summer 2019
Research Assistant to Laura Schechter, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2017-2018
Research Assistant to Juan José Miranda & Oscar Ishizawa, The World Bank	Summer 2018
Research Assistant to Juan José Miranda & Oscar Ishizawa, The World Bank	2016-2017
Economist at the Regulatory Policy Division, OECD	2014-2016

Research Assistant to Sandra Sosa, Mexico's National Institute of Public Health (INSP)	2013-2014
Research Assistant to Juan José Miranda & Oscar Ishizawa, The World Bank	2013-2014
Deputy Director, Ministry of Education of Mexico	2014
Research Assistant to Eva Arceo, CIDE	2012-2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Wisconsin-Madison

PA 818: Introduction to Statistical Methods for Public Policy Analysis, Prof. Ross Milton	Fall 2022
AAE 374: The Growth and Development of Nations, Prof. Jeremy Foltz	Spring 2022
SOC 357: Methods of Sociological Inquiry, Prof. Chaeyoon Lim	Fall 2021
STAT 311: Intro. to Theory and Methods of Mathematical Statistics, Prof. Ismor Fischer	Spring 2021
AAE 215: Intro. to Agricultural and Applied Economics. Prof. Fengxia Dong	Fall 2020
AAE 322: Commodity Markets. Prof. Sheldon Du	Spring 2020
AAE 215: Intro. to Agricultural and Applied Economics. Prof. Tessa Conroy	Fall 2019
AAE 215: Intro. to Agricultural and Applied Economics. Prof. Dominic Parker	Fall 2018

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS AND SERVICE

Awards

Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, AAE Dept., UW-Madison	2020
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Grants and Fellowships

Graduate Research Fellow, Institute for Research on Poverty, UW-Madison	2022-2023
Conference Travel Grant, AAE Dept., UW-Madison	2022
CONACyT Doctoral Fellowship	2017-2022
Conference Travel Grant, SMDM	2014
Undergraduate Institutional Scholarship, CIDE	2010-2013
Undergraduate Grant, Ford Foundation	2010-2013

Service

Mentor at the Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS), UW-Madison	Spring 2021
Mentor at the Gradiente projet, Mexico	2019
Social Chair, Taylor-Hibbard Club, AAE Dept., UW-Madison	2018-2020
Vice-president and Founding Member of the Economics Student Society (SéCIDE), CIDE	2013
Student representative at the Student Society, CIDE	2010 – 2011

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

LACEA Annual Meeting (Lima, Peru)	2022
AMIE 2nd Workshop in Applied Microeconomics	2022
MEA Annual Meeting (Minneapolis, MN)	2022
AAEA Annual Meeting (Atlanta, GA)	2019
SMDM Annual North American Meeting (Miami, FL)	2014

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Languages: Spanish (Native), English (Fluent), French (Intermediate), German (Beginner)
 Software: STATA, L^AT_EX, MATLAB, R, Python (Basic), Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
 Citizenship: Mexican

REFERENCES

Laura Schechter

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ABSTRACTS

Avocados: Mexico's green gold. The U.S. opioid crisis and its impact on Mexico's drug cartel violence. [JOB MARKET PAPER]

The global increase in the demand for avocados has attracted the attention of rent-seeking criminal organizations in Mexico. As a result, farmers and packing houses have become the targets of drug trafficking organizations (DTOs). This paper aims to answer whether declining drug revenues have motivated cartels to target licit businesses, such as avocado farms, rather than continue specializing in the production and distribution of illicit drugs. To do this, I exploit exogenous variation in the demand for pure heroin in the U.S. between 2011 and 2019. In particular, I use the introduction of Fentanyl in the U.S. as a proxy for the reduction in the demand for pure heroin in Mexico to answer whether this led to an increase in homicides and cartel presence in avocado- and poppy-growing municipalities. Using municipal level data, I show that the decrease in the demand for heroin increased homicide rates (including those of agricultural workers) in avocado-growing municipalities. I find no evidence of higher cartel presence in these municipalities, suggesting that, while DTOs do not seem to be moving into these municipalities, they have become more violent toward civilians. Furthermore, I find that the fall in the demand for heroin led to a decrease in cartel presence and homicide rates in poppy-growing municipalities. Overall, this paper provides evidence of inter-sector spillovers resulting from drug demand changes. (JEL codes: K42, O12, O13, O17, Q17)

The effect of NAFTA on violence and economic growth in Mexico's avocado sector.

The relationship between economic shocks and crime in the literature remains ambiguous. Despite its relevance, there is little consensus on the mechanisms through which a positive economic shock can affect crime. This paper seeks to contribute to this literature by looking into the impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on violent crime in the avocado sector of Mexico between 1990 and 2006. Before 1997, Mexican avocados were banned in the U.S. to prevent the introduction of pests. However, the signing of NAFTA in 1994 provided the means for avocados to enter the U.S. market. The gradual opening of avocados into the U.S. market offers a unique opportunity to identify the effect of an economic shock on crime. I use a difference-in-differences strategy and annual municipality-level information on murders and the presence of cartels to measure the impact of an increase in the demand for avocados on violent crime. My findings suggest that the opening to the avocado trade resulted in fewer homicides in avocado-growing municipalities in Mexico. The results also show that this was not due to a lower cartel presence. (JEL codes: D74, F16, O12)

Impact of gender imbalance in women's education and migratory decisions: evidence from Mexico

While a number of studies have focused on understanding the marriage market, few studies have focused on understanding females' decisions to invest in human capital and migrate when international migration has led to higher uncertainty in the marriage market. Using data from the Mexican Family Life Survey (MxFLS), I analyze the effect of long-term male migration to the U.S. on female education and local migration in Mexico. I use a fixed effects model to estimate the impact of sex ratios on the number of years of education for females between 18 and 35 years old. In addition, I estimate a probit model to measure the effect on the probability of migrating domestically. I use past migration to the U.S. at the municipal level as an instrument for the endogeneity of the sex ratios. My preliminary results show that women that live in communities where there are more females than males, study more and are more likely to migrate.