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CURRENT POSITION

Professor and Frederick S. Addy Distinguished Chair of Economics,
Michigan State University, 2021 – Present

August 2022-Present

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Director, Centro de Investigación Económica, ITAM.

June 2019 – July 2022

Visiting Researcher (National Fellow), Hoover, Stanford University.

August 2017 – July 2018

Full Professor, Centro de Investigación Económica, ITAM.

June 2017

Assistant Professor, Centro de Investigación Económica, ITAM.

August 2009

EDUCATION

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Feb. 2007

PhD in Economics

ITAM (Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México)

Jun. 2001

BA in Economics

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Credit Markets and Financial Inclusion
- Development and Courts
- Civic Education, Corruption and Democracy
- Health

PUBLISHED AND FORTHCOMING PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS

- "Sequential Banking Externalities", with G. DiGiorgi and A. Drenik. Accepted at American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, August 2021
- "Voting with One's Neighbors: Evidence from Migration within Mexico", with F. Finan and A. Simpson. Journal of Public Economics, Volume 202, October 2021
- "Assortative Matching of Exporters and Importers", with Y. Sugita and K. Teshima. Accepted Review of Economics and Statistics, June 2021.
- "The Effectiveness of Sin Food Taxes: Evidence from Mexico", with A. Aguilar and E. Gutierrez. Journal of Health Economics, Volume 77. 2021

- “How Debit Cards Enable the Poor to Save More”, with P. Bachas, P. Gertler, S. Higgins, *Journal of Finance*, Volume 76, Issue 4, August 2021
- “The Quality of Vote Tallies: Causes and Consequences”, with C. Challu and A. Simpser, *American Political Science Review*, 114(4), July 2020.
- “Borrowing on the Wrong Card: Evidence from Mexico”, with A. Ponce and G. Zamarripa. *American Economic Review*, 107, April 2017
- "Are Information Disclosures Effective?", with A. Elizondo and E. Laguna. *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 9, February 2017
- “On the Distributive Costs of Drug-Related Homicides”, with N. Ajzenman and S. Galiani. *Journal of Law and Economics*, 58, November 2015.
- “Entry Regulation and Firm Start-Ups: Evidence from Mexico”, with E. Piedra and D. Kaplan. *Journal of Public Economics*, 95, December 2011.
- “Comparing Open and Sealed Bid Auctions: Theory and Evidence from Timber Auctions”, with S. Athey and J. Levin. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 126, February 2011.

WORKING PAPERS

In the review process:

- "Information and Bargaining through Agents: Experimental Evidence from Mexico's Labor Courts", with J. Sadka and C. Woodruff, Revise and Resubmit at the Review of Economic Studies.
- “Expanding Financial Access Via Credit Cards: Evidence from Mexico”, Reject and Resubmit at the Review of Economic Studies, with S. Castellanos, A. Mahajan, D. Jimenez
- "The Impact of a Private Supplement to Public Health Care: The Mexico Diabetes Experiment", with A. Bronsoler and J. Gruber.
- "Autonomy and Specificity in Agricultural Technology Adoption: Evidence from Mexico", with C. Corral, X. Giné and A. Mahajan.
- "The Limits of Self-commitment and Private Paternalism", with C. McIntosh, I. Meza, J. Sadka.
- “Should Your Government Sell You Goods? Evidence from the Milk Market in Mexico”, With D. Jimenez
- "Spatial competition and retail pricing in the newly deregulated Mexican gasoline market", with L. Davis and S. McRae.

Working papers

- “The Long-Term Effects of Temporary Incentives to Save: Results Field Experiment in Mexico”, with P. Gertler, S. Higgins, and A. Scott
- “Equality in online contact reduced polarization”, K. Greene, E. Rossiter, and A. Simpser

Work in progress:

- "Improving Labor Courts: Fighting Corruption with Competition", with E. DalBo, F. Finan, J. Sadka
- "Does Corruption and Government Ineffectiveness Undermine Democracy?", with S. Jha and E. Rivera.

- "Protecting Democracy: Promoting Civic Values at Scale", with M. Kremer and A. Simpser
- "The Effect of Credit on Firm Performance", With P. Dupas, and G. Esquivel.
- "Designing Loan Refinancing Contracts", with J. Cuesta, C. Serrano, J. Zinman.
- "The Health Benefits of Continuing Treatment: Causal Evidence for Diabetics", A. Bronsoler and J. Gruber.

PUBLISHED NON PEER REVIEWED PAPERS

- "Digital Financial Services Go a Long Way: Transaction Costs and Financial Inclusion" with P. Bachas, P. Gertler, S. Higgins. *American Economic Review P&P*, 108, May 2018.
- Consideraciones sobre la Evolución y retos del Sistema de Ahorro para el Retiro", M. García Huitrón. Fundef.
- "Retos para el cobro del impuesto sobre la renta en la economía digital", with E. Pineda and A. Rasteletti.

RECOGNITIONS

- Winner of the 1st place Banamex Prize, 2020 (the Top Prize in Economics in Mexico with Diego Jimenez). The Banamex Prize is the highest economics prize in Mexico, with blinded submissions and hundreds of applications.
- Winner of the 1st place Banamex Prize, 2019 (the Top Prize in Economics in Mexico with Giacomo DiGiorgi and Andres Drenik)
- Winner of the 1st place Banamex Prize, 2015 (the Top Prize in Economics in Mexico Yoichi Sugita and Kensuke Teshima)
- Winner of the Victor Urquidi Prize 2019 for the Best Research Paper in Economics about Mexico (the paper on Labor Courts with J. Sadka and C. Woodruff)
- Recipient of the Tinker Fellowship, Stanford CLAS, 2018
- Recipient of the Hoover National Fellowship, Stanford University, 2017-2018
- Simonsen Lecture Invited Lecture LACEA/LAMES 2017 (best Latin American economist under 40)
- Winner of the 1st place Banamex Prize, 2015 (the Top Prize in Economics in Mexico)
- Winner of ITAM's Academic Merit Award, 2015
- Member of MIT-Jameel Poverty Action Lab 2010 (first invited member in Mexico)
- Invited researcher Columbia University, 2015
- Invited researcher Sci-Po, Paris, 2013

GRANTS

- Fund for Innovation in Development, 1,015,889 USD (895,980 Euros), 2021. With J. Sadka.
- Development Impact Ventures, 715,000 USD, 2021. With J. Sadka.
- Wellspring fund 160,000 USD, 2021. With A. Simpser
- JOBs initiative, JPAL, 58,000 USD, 2020. With C. Woodruff and J. Sadka
- Eli Lilly and Company: 1.2 million USD, 2018. With A. Bronsoler and J. Gruber.
- Economic Development Initiative: "Improving the Effectiveness of Labor Courts Through Information and Conciliation", 22,000 GBP, 2017. With J. Sadka and C. Woodruff.

- Governance Initiative JPAL “Improving Labor Courts: the Effects of Publicly Provided Lawyers and Statistical Information”: 167,700 USD, 2018. With J. Sadka and C. Woodruff.
- Economic Development Initiative “Improving Labor Courts: the Effect of Publicly Provided Lawyers and Information”. 108,700 GBP, 2018. With J. Sadka and C. Woodruff.
- Government Partnership Initiative, “Statistical information and lawsuit settlement.”: 76,500 USD, 2017. With J. Sadka and C. Woodruff.
- Conacyt and ITAM Centro de Energía y Recursos Naturales: ~2 million MX, 2017. With S. McRae.
- BASIS-USAID-3ie-WB Grant for research on Technology Adoption in Agriculture: 800,000 usd. 2013-2017. With C. Corral, A. Mahajan, X. Gine, and C. Corral.
- Government Partnership Initiative (GPI) “Expert advice vs. statistical information: effects on settlement rates in labor disputes”: 49,500 USD, 2015. With J. Sadka.
- Oxford University “Study of Dispute Settlement”: 26,000 GBP, 2017. With J. Sadka and C. Woodruff.
- JPAL Governance Initiative Grant, 2014 (300,000 usd, returned)
- Yale-IPA SME Research Grant, 2014 (15,000 usd), with C. Serrano.

REFeree-EDITORIAL WORK

- Former member of the editorial board of El Trimestre Económico, Mexico’s top ranked economics journal.
- American Economic Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics, AEA Applied, AEA Policy, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Political Economy, Econometrica, Trimestre Económico, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Health Economics, Economic Journal.

RESEARCH GROUPS

- MIT Jameel Poverty Action Lab Affiliate (<http://www.povertyactionlab.org>).
- Qué Funciona para el Desarrollo, A.C. (Founder, <http://www.qfd.org>).

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS:

- Own presentation Yale’s Financial Inclusion Conference, UT Austin, LACEA-LAMES, Chicago University BFI, Secretaría de Salud Obesity Conference, NBER summer meetings twice.
- Presented by coauthors at: Yale, UCL, NY Fed, Barcelona, NBER summer conference, ITAM, IFS, Berkeley Economics, Berkeley Business School, Dartmouth, Yale and World Bank, Brown, Yokohama National University, Hitotsubashi Trade and FDI Conference, PEDL London, Tohoku University, Rocky Mountain Empirical Trade, Nordic International Trade Seminars (NOITS), IADB-LACEA Trade Integration and Growth conference, Canadian Economic Association, Econometric Society Meeting 2014, North Eastern University Development Conference, American Economic Association 2015, European Economic Association 2015 Mannheim, Boston College, University of Southern California, Mexican Treasury, NY Fed, Alto University Helsinki, Oslo University, University of Bolzano, UC-Santa Cruz.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

In México:

- Advisor to the Undersecretary of the Treasury
Adjunt General Director
México, Secretaría de Hacienda Nov. 2007-Nov. 2008
- Advisor to the Secretary of Economics
General Director (main economic advisor to the minister)
México, Secretaría de Economía Dec. 2008-Jun. 2009
- Visiting Researcher
Banco de México Jun. 2013- Jun 2014

In the United States:

- Consultant
World Bank IFC Doing Business Project Jun. 2006-Ago. 2007
- Consultant
World Bank IFC Enterprise Analysis Unit Feb. 2007-Nov. 2007