Enrique Seira

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Current Position

Loughrey Professor of Economics and Human Development Aug. 2025–Present
Notre Dame

JPAL Affiliate 2010–Present

BREAD Affiliate 2024–Present

Kellogg Center Affiliate 2025–Present

Previous Academic Positions

Frederick S. Addy Distinguished Professor of Economics Aug. 2022–May 2025
Michigan State University

Director, Centro de Investigación Económica, ITAM Jun. 2019–Jul. 2022

Visiting Researcher (National Fellow), Hoover, Stanford University Aug. 2017–Jul. 2018

Full Professor, Centro de Investigación Económica, ITAM Jun. 2017

Assistant Professor, Centro de Investigación Económica, ITAM Aug. 2009

Education

Stanford University Feb. 2007
PhD in Economics

ITAM, (Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México) Jun. 2001
BA in Economics

Research Interests

- Development Economics
- Courts
- Corruption and Democracy
- Civic Education

Published and Forthcoming Peer-reviewed Papers

- "Contract Terms, Employment Shocks, and Default in Credit Cards", with S. Castellanos, D. Jimenez, A. Mahajan, and E. Alcaraz. *Review of Economic Studies*, 2025.
- "The Role of Equal Status in Prejudice Reduction via Interpersonal Contact", with K. Greene, E. Rossiter, and A. Simpser. Accepted at *Nature Human Behavior*, 2024. Best Paper EPOVB-APSA.
- "The Competitive Effects of Entry in Deregulated Mexican Gasoline Market.", with L. Davis and S. McRae. *The Journal of Industrial Economics*, 2025. Winner of the 2021 Citibanamex Prize in Economic Research
- "Private Sector Provision as an "Escape Valve": The Mexico Diabates Experiment", with A. Bronsoler and J. Gruber. *Review of Economic Studies*, March 2023. Covered at voxdev.org Winner of the 2021 Citibanamex Prize in Economic Research
- "Information and Bargaining through Agents: Experimental Evidence from Mexico's Labor Courts", with J. Sadka and C. Woodruff. *Review of Economic Studies*, 2023.
- "The Extension of Credit with Non-exclusive Contracts and Sequential Banking", with G. DiGiorgi and A. Drenik. *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, Volume 15, No. 1, 2023. Winner of the 2019 Citibanamex Prize in Economic Research.
- "Voting with One's Neighbors: Evidence from Migration within Mexico", with F. Finan and A. Simpser. *Journal of Public Economics*, Volume 202, 2021.
- "Assortative Matching of Exporters and Importers", with Y. Sugita and K. Teshima. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, Volume 105, Issue 6, 2023. Winner of the 2015 Citibanamex Prize in Economic Research.
- "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, and S. Higgins. *Journal of Finance*, Volume 76, Issue 4, 2021.
- "The Quality of Vote Tallies: Causes and Consequences", with C. Challu and A. Simpser. *American Political Science Review*, Volume 114, Issue 4, 2020.
- "An Economic Perspective on Mexico's Nascent Deregulation of Retail Petroleum Markets", with W. Davis Lucas, McRae Shaun. Journal Economics of Energy & Environmental Policy (EEEP), Volume 8, Issue 2, 2019
- "Digital Financial Services Go a Long Way: Transaction Costs and Financial Inclusion" with P. Bachas, P. Gertler, and S. Higgings. *American Economic Review PP*, Volume 108, May 2018.
- "Borrowing on the Wrong Card: Evidence from Mexico", with A. Ponce and G. Zamarripa. *American Economic Review*, Volume 107, 2017.
- "Are Information Disclosures Effective?", with A. Elizondo and E. Laguna. *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, Volume 9, 2017.
- "On the Distributive Costs of Drug-Related Homicides", with N. Ajzenman and S. Galiani. *Journal of Law and Economics*, Volume 58, 2015.
- "Entry Regulation and Firm Start-Ups: Evidence from Mexico", with E. Piedra and D. Kaplan. *Journal of Public Economics*, Volume 95, 2011.
- "Comparing Open and Sealed Bid Auctions: Theory and Evidence from Timber Auctions", with S. Athey and J. Levin. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Volume 126, 2011.

Working Papers

In the review process:

- "The Long-Term Effects of Temporary Incentives to Save: Results from a Field Experiment in Mexico", with P. Gertler, S. Higgins, and A. Scott, R&R at the *Journal of Finance*.
- "Structured Payment in Pawnshop Borrowing: Mandates vs. Choice", with F. DiTaglia, C. McIntosh, I. Meza. R&R at the *Review of Economic Studies*
- "Should the Government Sell You Goods? Evidence from the Milk Market in Mexico", with D. Jimenez, reject and resubmit *American Economic Review*. Winner of the 2020 Citibanamex Prize in Economic Research.
- "Appropiate Technology Use and Autonomy: Evidence from Mexico", with B. Bushong, C. Corral, X. Giné and A. Mahajan. Covered at voxdev.org
- "Apex Corruption Erodes Democratic Values", with E. Rivera and S. Jha.

Work in progress:

- "Internalities and the effectiveness of tazing sugar-sweetened beverages", with P. Gertler, T. Gracner, and R. Miranda.
- "Civic Education and Democratic Citizenship: A Multisite Randomized Intervention" with P. Barnwal, A. Estefan, and A. Simpser
- "Improving Labor Courts: Fighting Corruption with Competition", with E. DalBo, F. Finan, J. Sadka, and M. Medina.
- "Imagined Communities: Historical Narrative and Identity", with B. Krause, M. Kremer, and E. Rivera.
- "Global Market Power", with N. Barahona and D. Jimenez-Hernandez.
- "Satisfaction with Democracy Does Predict Democratic Behaviors", with A. Santos and A. Simpser.

Policy Papers

- "El efecto del RPCI en México", with M. Medina, E. Alcaraz, G. López, L. Martínez.
- "Consideraciones sobre la Evolución y Retos del Sistema de Ahorro para el Retiro", with M. García Huitrón. Fundef.
- "Retos para el cobro del impuesto sobre la renta en la economía digital", with E. Pineda and A. Rasteletti
- "Algunos hechos sobre educación en México", with S. Aguilar y P. Mejia

Recognitions

- Winner of the 1st place Banamex Prize, 2021 (the Top Prize in Economics in Mexico with Ari Bronsoler and Jonathan Gruber). The Banamex Prize is the highest economics prize in Mexico, with blind submissions and hundreds of applications.
- Winner of the 2nd place Banamex Prize, 2021 (with Shaun McRae and Lucas Davis).
- Winner of the 1st place Banamex Prize, 2020 (with Diego Jimenez).
- Winner of the 1st place Banamex Prize, 2019 (with Giacomo DiGiorgi and Andres Drenik).

- Winner of the 1st place Banamex Prize, 2015 (with 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

- Notre Dame, 2025, $162,000 "Civic Education and Democratic Citizenship: A Multisite Randomized Intervention", with A. Estefan
- World Bank grant, 2023, $30,000, with B. Bushong, C. Coral, X. Gine, A. Mahajan
- Fund for Innovation in Development, 2021, $1,015,889 USD (895,980 Euros) with J. Sadka
- Development Impact Ventures, 2021, $715,000 USD, with J. Sadka
- Wellspring 2022, $160,000 USD, with A. Simpser
- JOBs initiative JPAL 2020, $58,000, with C. Woodruff and J. Sadka
- Eli Lilly and Company, 2018, $1.2 million, with A. Bronsoler and J. Gruber
- Economic Development Initiative: "Improving the Effectiveness of Labor Courts Through Information and Conciliation", 2017, 22,000 GBP, with J. Sadka and C. Woodruff
- Governance Initiative JPAL "Improving Labor Courts: the Effects of Publicly Provided Lawyers and Statistical Information", 2018, $167,700, with J. Sadka and C. Woodruff
- Economic Development Initiative "Improving Labor Courts: the Effect of Publicly Provided Lawyers and Information", 2018, 108,700 GBP, with J. Sadka and C. Woodruff
- Government Partnership Initiative, "Statistical Information and Lawsuit Settlement", $76,500, 2017, with J. Sadka and C. Woodruff
- Conacyt and ITAM Centro de Energía y Recursos Naturales, 2017, 2 million MX, with S. McRae
- BASIS-USAID-3ie-WB, 2013, $800,000, 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", 2015, $49,500, 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, returned
- Yale-IPA SME Research Grant, 2014, $15,000, 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*, *Journal of Finance*.

Research Groups

- MIT Jameel Poverty Action Lab Affiliate (`http://www.povertyactionlab.org`). First member in Mexico.
- BREAD Affiliate (`https://www.ibread.org/about/`)

Other Work Experience

In Mexico:

- **Advisor to the Undersecretary of the Treasury**
  Adjunt General Director — *Nov. 2007–Nov.2008*
  México, Secretaría de Hacienda
- **Advisor to the Secretary of Economics**
  General Director (main economic advisor to the minister) — *Dec. 2008–Jun. 2009*
  México, Secretaría de Economía
- **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*