

JESICA TORRES

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The World Bank

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WORLD BANK EXPERIENCE

<i>MENA Chief Economist Office</i>	2023-present
<i>Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice</i>	2019-2022

PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE

Inter-American Development Bank	2017-2019
Ministry of Foreign Relations and Ministry of Finance, Mexico	2016-2017

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor and Lecturer, Tecnológico de Monterrey	2014-2016
Assistant Professor, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León	2013-2014

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics	University of Chicago	2013
M.A. Economics	University of Chicago	2009
B.A. Economics	Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Mexico	2002

JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

1. “The impact of the COVID-19 shock on women-led businesses,” with Kathleen Beegle, Isis Gaddis, Leonardo Iacovone, and Franklin Maduko; *The World Bank Research Observer*, 2023.
2. “Firms through the COVID-19 pandemic: evidence from sub-Saharan Africa,” with Elwyn Davies, Gaurav Nayyar, and Santiago Reyes, in *Shaping Africa’s post-COVID recovery*, edited by Rabah Arezki, Simeon Djankov, and Ugo Panizza; CEPR and FMG, 2021.
3. “Policies to support businesses through the COVID-19 shock: a firm-level perspective,” with Xavier Cirera, Marcio Cruz, Elwyn Davies, Arti Grover, Leonardo Iacovone, Jose Ernesto Lopez Cordova, Denis Medvedev, Franklin Maduko, Gaurav Nayyar, and Santiago Reyes; *The World Bank Research Observer*, 2020.
4. “Size-dependent policies, talent misallocation, and the return to skill,” with Joaquín López, *Review of Economic Dynamics*, 2020.

WORKING PAPERS AND UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS

1. “Business uncertainty in developing and emerging economies,” with Edgar Avalos, Jose Maria Barrero, Elwyn Davies, and Leonardo Iacovone.
2. “Optimal public sector premium, talent misallocation, and aggregate productivity: evidence from the Middle East and North Africa,” with Francisco Parro.
3. “How large are the economic dividends from closing gender employment gaps in the Middle East and North Africa?” with Federico Fiuratti and Steven Pennings; Policy Research Working Paper 10706; The World Bank, 2024.

4. “Informality and the life cycle of plants,” with Furkan Sarıkaya and M. Nazım Tamkoç.
5. “The pecuniary and non-pecuniary returns to running a micro-firm: evidence from a cross-section of women in Mexico,” with Benjamin Williams and David Francis.
6. “Technology and resilience,” with Xavier Cirera, Marcio Cruz, Diego Comin, and Kyungmin Lee.
7. “Unmasking the impact of COVID-19 on businesses: firm-level evidence from across the world,” with Marie Christine Apedo-Amah, Besart Avdiu, Xavier Cirera, Marcio Cruz, Elwyn Davies, Arti Grover, Leonardo Iacovone, Umut Kilinc, Denis Medvedev, Franklin Maduko, Stavros Poupakis, and Trang Thu Tran; Policy Research Working Paper 9434; The World Bank, 2020.
8. “Labor regulations and resource misallocation in Mexico,” with Matias Busso and Santiago Levy, 2019.
9. “Special tax regimes in Latin America and the Caribbean: Compliance, Social Protection, and Resource Misallocation,” with Oliver Azuara, Rodrigo Azuero, and Mariano Bosch, 2019.

WORLD BANK REPORTS (PUBLISHED AND IN PROGRESS)

1. “Labor markets and shocks in the MENA region” (tentative title), with Roberta Gatti, Asif Islam, and Nelly Elmallakh. Expected to launch in September 2025.
2. “Growth in the Middle East and North Africa”, with Roberta Gatti, Nelly Elmallakh, Gianluca Mele, Diego Faures, Menna Mousa, and Ilias Suvanov, 2024.
3. “Balancing act: jobs and wages in the Middle East and North Africa when crises hit,” with Roberta Gatti, Daniel Lederman, Nelly Elmallakh, Joana Silva, Rana Lotfi, and Ilias Suvanov, 2023.
4. “Mexico entrepreneurship ecosystem diagnostic,” with Esperanza Lasagabaster, Ernesto Lopez-Córdova, Eduardo Piedra Gonzalez, Horman Millán, and Martha Peña Cenicerros, 2023.
5. The case of Philippines in “Crisis and Recovery: Learning from COVID-19’s Economic Impacts and Policy Responses in East Asia,” with Edgar Avalos, Irene Jo Estigoy Arzadon, Jaime Frias, Karl Robert Lasmarias Jandoc, and Trang Thu Tran, edited by Alvaro Gonzalez, Lydia Kim, and Maria Ana Lugo.
6. “In the developing world, COVID-19 was a job destruction shock,” with Jose Maria Barrero, Francesca de Nicola, Jonathan Timmis, and Trang Tran, 2022.

SKILLS AND AWARDS

Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent), French (beginner)

WBG Awards: ECA 2024 VPU Team Awards (multinational survey in Ukraine); GGE 2021 VPU Team Awards (Business Pulse Surveys, technology adoption survey, entrepreneurship assessment in Senegal)

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