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## MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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### **DOCTORAL STUDIES**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)  
PhD, Economics, Expected completion June 2012  
DISSERTATION: Essays in Economic Development and Political Economy

### DISSERTATION COMMITTEE AND REFERENCES

Professor Daron Acemoglu  
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<b>PRIOR EDUCATION</b>	M.Phil. with Distinction	Economics	Oxford University	2007
	A.B. summa cum laude	Economics	Harvard University	2005

<b>CITIZENSHIP</b>	USA	<b>GENDER:</b> FEMALE	<b>YEAR OF BIRTH</b>	1983
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**LANGUAGES** English (native), Spanish (fluent), Portuguese (intermediate)

**FIELDS** Primary Fields: Development, Political Economy  
Secondary Field: Economic History

<b>RELEVANT POSITIONS</b>	Research Assistant to Professor Daron Acemoglu	2009 - 2011
	Research Assistant to Professor Ben Olken	2006 - 2007

<b>TEACHING EXPERIENCE</b>	World Economic History (Economics 1340, Harvard, undergraduate and distance learning), Teaching Assistant for Professor James Robinson	Spring 2011
	The Challenges of World Poverty (Course #14.73, MIT, undergraduate), Teaching Assistant for Professors Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo	Spring 2011
	Programming for Economists (Course #14.170, MIT, graduate), Instructor	Jan 2009, Jun 2008
	Monetary Theory (Oxford undergraduate tutorial)	Spring 2007
<b>FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS</b>	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (2007)	
	Rhodes Scholarship (2005)	
	John Williams Prize, Best Undergraduate Harvard Student in Economics (2005)	
	Seymour Harris Prize, Best Undergraduate Harvard Thesis in Economics (2005)	
	Thomas Hoopes Prize, Distinguished Harvard Undergraduate Thesis (2005)	
	USA Today Academic All American 1 <sup>st</sup> Team (2005)	
Harry S. Truman Scholarship (2004)		
<b>PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES</b>	Referee for <i>American Economic Review</i> , <i>American Economic Journal: Applied Economics</i> , <i>American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics</i> , <i>Econometrica</i> , <i>The Economics of Transition</i> , <i>Environment and Development Economics</i> , <i>Journal of Development Economics</i> , <i>Journal of Economic Growth</i> , <i>Journal of the European Economic Association</i> , <i>Journal of Public Economics</i> , <i>Journal of Regional Science</i> , <i>Quarterly Journal of Economics</i> , <i>The Review of Economics and Statistics</i> , <i>Revista de Historia Económica</i>	
	Invited Presentations: Stanford Conference on Violence, Drugs, and Governance (2011), Inter-American Development Bank (2011), University of California – San Diego (2011), NBER Summer Institute (2010, discussant), Columbia University, New Frontiers in Latin American History (2010), Stanford Institute of Theoretical Economics (2009), City University of Hong Kong (2009), Chinese University of Hong Kong (2009), University of Warwick (2009), World Bank/IZA Conference on Labor and Development (2006)	
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>	<b>“The Persistent Effects of Peru’s Mining <i>Mita</i>.”</b> <i>Econometrica</i> 78(6), 2010: pp. 1863–1903. Translated and reprinted in <i>Apnutes</i> 68, 2011: pp. 209-263.	
	This study utilizes regression discontinuity to examine the long-run impacts of the <i>mita</i> , an extensive forced mining labor system in effect in Peru and Bolivia between 1573 and 1812. Results indicate that a <i>mita</i> effect lowers household consumption by around 25% and increases the prevalence of stunted growth in children by around six percentage points in subjected districts today. Using data from the Spanish Empire and Peruvian Republic to trace channels of institutional persistence, I show that the <i>mita</i> 's influence has persisted through its impacts on land tenure and public goods provision. <i>Mita</i> districts historically had fewer large landowners and lower educational attainment. Today, they are less integrated into road networks, and their residents are substantially more likely to be subsistence farmers.	

**“Productivity Differences Between and Within Countries”** (with Daron Acemoglu). *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* 2(1), January 2010: pp. 169–188.

We document substantial within-country (cross-municipality) differences in incomes for a large number of countries in the Americas. A significant fraction of the within-country differences cannot be explained by observed human capital. We conjecture that the sources of within-country and between-country differences are related. As a first step towards a unified framework, we propose a simple model incorporating both differences in technological know-how across countries and differences in productive efficiency within countries.

**“Temperature and Income: Reconciling New Cross-Sectional and Panel Estimates”** (with Ben Jones and Ben Olken). *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings* 99 (2), May 2009: pp. 198-204.

**RESEARCH  
PAPERS**

**“Trafficking Networks and the Mexican Drug War”**  
(Job Market Paper)

Drug trade-related violence has escalated dramatically in Mexico during the past five years, claiming 40,000 lives and raising concerns about the capacity of the Mexican state to monopolize violence. This study examines how drug traffickers’ economic objectives influence the direct and spillover effects of Mexican policy towards the drug trade. By exploiting variation from close mayoral elections and a network model of drug trafficking, the study develops three sets of results. First, regression discontinuity estimates show that drug trade-related violence in a municipality increases substantially after the close election of a mayor from the conservative National Action Party (PAN), which has spearheaded the war on drug trafficking. This violence consists primarily of individuals involved in the drug trade killing each other. The empirical evidence suggests that the violence reflects rival traffickers’ attempts to wrest control of territories after crackdowns initiated by PAN mayors have challenged the incumbent criminals. Second, the study accurately predicts diversion of drug traffic following close PAN victories. It does this by estimating a model of optimal routes for trafficking drugs across the Mexican road network to the U.S. When drug traffic is diverted to other municipalities, drug trade-related violence in these municipalities increases. Moreover, female labor force participation and informal sector wages fall, corroborating qualitative evidence that traffickers extort informal sector producers. Finally, the study uses the trafficking model and estimated spillover effects to examine the allocation of law enforcement resources. Overall, the results demonstrate how traffickers’ economic objectives and constraints imposed by the routes network affect the policy outcomes of the Mexican Drug War.

**“Temperature Shocks and Economic Growth: Evidence from the Last Half Century”** (with Ben Jones and Ben Olken). Revise and resubmit, *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*.

This paper uses historical fluctuations in temperature within countries to identify its effects on aggregate economic outcomes. We find three primary results. First, higher temperatures substantially reduce economic growth in poor countries. Second, higher temperatures appear to reduce growth rates, not just the level of output. Third, higher temperatures have wide-ranging effects, reducing agricultural output, industrial output, and political stability. These findings inform debates over climate's role in economic development and suggest the possibility of substantial negative impacts of higher temperatures on poor countries.

**“Insurgency and Long-Run Development: Lessons from the Mexican Revolution”**

This study exploits within-state variation in drought severity to identify how insurgency during the Mexican Revolution, a major early 20th century armed conflict, impacted subsequent government policies and long-run economic development. Using a novel municipal-level dataset on revolutionary insurgency, the study documents that municipalities experiencing severe drought just prior to the Revolution were substantially more likely to have insurgent activity than municipalities where drought was less severe. Many insurgents demanded land reform, and following the Revolution, Mexico redistributed over half of its surface area in the form of *ejidos*: farms comprised of individual and communal plots that were granted to a group of petitioners. Rights to *ejido* plots were non-transferrable, hiring labor and renting plots were prohibited, and many decisions about the use of *ejido* lands had to be countersigned by politicians. Instrumental variables estimates show that municipalities with revolutionary insurgency had 22 percentage points more of their surface area redistributed as *ejidos*. Today, insurgent municipalities are 20 percentage points more agricultural and 6 percentage points less industrial. Incomes in insurgent municipalities are lower and alternations between political parties for the mayorship have been substantially less common. Other historical droughts of similar magnitude to the pre-revolutionary drought are uncorrelated with long-run development. The contrast between the long-run effects of pre-revolutionary drought and other similar droughts underlines that relatively ordinary events occurring at critical historical junctures can have large long-run effects. Overall, the results support the hypothesis that by placing prohibitive restrictions on market transactions and fostering non-competitive politics, Mexican land reform stymied long-run economic development.