

Jacob Moscona

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Appointments

2024- 3M Career Development Assistant Professor of Economics, MIT
2024- Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research (DEV & EEE)
2021-2024 Prize Fellow in Economics, History and Politics, Harvard University

Education

2021 Ph.D. in Economics, MIT
2016 A.B. in Economics with a Secondary Field in Mathematics, Harvard University

Publications

Dugoua, E. and Moscona, J. “The Economics of Climate Innovation: Technology, Climate Policy, and the Clean Energy Transition.” **Handbook of Climate Change Economics**, forthcoming.

Hsiao, A., Moscona, J., and Sastry, K. “Food Policy in a Warming World.” **Econometrica**, 94(2): 537–572.

Moscona, J. “The Management of Aid and Conflict in Africa.” **American Economic Journal: Economic Policy**, 17(4): 228-259.

Moscona, J. and Seck, A. A. “Age Set vs. Kin: Culture and Financial Ties in East Africa.” **American Economic Review**, 114(9): 2748–2791.

Moscona, J. and Sastry, K. “Does Directed Innovation Mitigate Climate Damage? Evidence from US Agriculture.” **Quarterly Journal of Economics**, 138(2): 637-701. *Lead Article*.

Moscona, J., Nunn, N., and Robinson, James A. “Segmentary Lineage Organization and Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa.” **Econometrica**, 88(5): 1999-2036.

Moscona, J., Nunn, N., and Robinson, J. A. “Keeping it in the Family: Lineage Organization and the Scope of Trust in Sub-Saharan Africa.” **American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings** 107(5): 565-571.

Acemoglu, D., Moscona, J., and Robinson, J. A. “State Capacity and American Technology: Evidence from the 19th Century.” **American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings** 106(5): 61-67.

Working Papers

Moscona, J. and Sastry, K. “Inappropriate Technology: Evidence from Global Agriculture.” Revise and Resubmit Requested, **American Economic Review**.

Lerner, J., Liu, J., Moscona, J., and Yang, D. “Appropriate Entrepreneurship? The Rise of China and the Developing World.” Conditionally Accepted, **Journal of Political Economy**.

Moscona, J. “Environmental Catastrophe and the Direction of Invention: Evidence from the American Dust Bowl.” Conditionally Accepted, **Review of Economics and Statistics**.

Moscona, J., Nunn, N., and Robinson, J. A. “Searching for Fish in Trees? Policy Interventions and Economic Development when Context Matters,” Prepared for the **Handbook of Development Economics**.

Flynn, J., Levy, A., Moscona, J., and Wo, M. “Foreign Political Risk and Technological Change.”

Akerman, A., Moscona, J., Pellegrina, H., and Sastry, K. “Public R&D Meets Economic Development: Embrapa and Brazil’s Agricultural Revolution.”

Jones, B., Moscona, J., Olken, B., von Dessaur, C. “With or Without U? Binning Bias and the Causal Effects of Temperature Shocks.”

Hsiao, A., Moscona, J., Olken, B., and Sastry, K. “Climate Change, Deforestation, and the Expansion of the Global Agricultural Frontier.”

Moscona, J. “Flowers of Invention: Patent Protection and Productivity Growth in US Agriculture.”

Moscona, J. “Agricultural Development and Structural Change, Within and Across Countries.”

Moscona, J. and Levy, A. “Specializing in Cities: Density and the Pattern of Trade.”

Teaching

MIT 14.475: Environmental Economics (Spring 2025, Spring 2026), PhD course, co-taught with Benjamin Olken

MIT 14.773: Political Economy of Institutions and Development (Spring 2025, Spring 2026), PhD course, co-taught with Daron Acemoglu

MIT 14.775: Comparing Societies: Understanding Diverse Social Perspectives (Fall 2024, Fall 2025), PhD course, co-taught with Nathan Nunn and James Robinson

MIT 14.75: Political Economy and Economic Development (Spring 2026), undergraduate course, co-taught with Benjamin Olken

Professional Activities

Conference Presentations:

- 2026** ASSA Annual Meeting, NBER Development Economics/BREAD Spring Program Meeting, Rede PP&S Conference at Insper, UCLA Trade and Development Miniconference
- 2025** ASSA Annual Meeting, NBER Entrepreneurship and Productivity Spring Meeting, Annual Workshop in International Economics at NC State, Rome Junior Conference on Applied Microeconomics, NBER Summer Institute International Economics and Geopolitics, LSE Environment Week, Kiel-CEPR Conference on Geoeconomics, Coase Project Winter Meeting, NBER Development Economics/BREAD Fall Program Meeting
- 2024** Harvard Agriculture and Climate Change Workshop; Growth and Development Conference at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; American Society for Virology Annual Meeting; Society for Economic Dynamics Annual Meeting; NBER Summer Institute, International Economics and Geopolitics; NBER Political Economy Fall Meeting; Northwestern-UBC Political Economy of Development Conference
- 2023** ASSA Annual Meeting; Twelfth Annual Conference of the Julis-Rabinowitz Center for Public Finance at Princeton; Development Rookiefest at Northwestern; Princeton Macro Development Conference (discussant); Duke Strategy Research Conference; NBER Development / BREAD Program Fall Meeting
- 2022** Columbia-NYU Trade Day; WIDER Development Conference in Bogota; European Meeting of the Econometric Society; NBER Summer Institute, Environmental and Energy Economics; NBER Summer Institute, Macroeconomics and Productivity; NBER Summer Institute, Development of the American Economy; Brown Conference on the Roots of Comparative Development; BREAD Development Conference at Northwestern
- 2021** RIDGE Forum, Towards Sustainable Growth; NEUDC; CEPR/LEAP Workshop in Development Economics; NBER Development Economics/BREAD Fall Program Meeting; European Economics Association/ Econometric Society Congress; NBER Summer Institute, Environmental and Energy Economics; NBER Summer Institute, Innovation
- 2020** UC Berkeley Advanced Climate Economics Workshop
- 2019** Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention
- 2017** North East Universities Development Consortium

Invited Seminars:

- 2026** Helsinki GSE, Geneva Graduate Institute, University of Geneva, Stanford, Brown, Columbia, IMF, RFBerlin
- 2025** Virtual Seminar in Innovation and Economic Growth, Wharton, Northwestern, Paris School of Economics, University of Copenhagen, Cornell, Toulouse School of Economics, Stockholm University, Paris Dauphine-PSL, University of Wisconsin

- 2024** Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition; University of Toronto (Rotman); The Growth Lab at the Harvard Kennedy School; Brown; Georgetown; Auburn University; Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; Johns Hopkins SAIS; The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Tel Aviv University; Reichman University; Columbia: International Food Policy Research Institute; London School of Economics; University of Warwick; Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile
- 2023** HBS Entrepreneurial Management Unit; Chicago Economics; Chicago Booth; Stanford Economics; Stanford GSB; Harvard; MIT; UC Berkeley; Yale; Princeton; Cornell; LEAP Stellenbosch; Hong Kong University; ShanghaiTech; Chinese University of Hong Kong at Shenzhen; Sciences Po/Paris School of Economics; Ecole Polytechnique; Fundacao Getulio Vargas Sao Paulo; PUC Rio; Northwestern (Kellogg); University of Minnesota (Applied Economics)
- 2022** University of Southern California; UC Berkeley Economics; UC Berkeley Haas School of Business; UC San Diego; Harvard; Stanford; Penn State; IIES Stockholm; Stockholm School of Economics; NYU
- 2021** University of Hawaii; University of British Columbia

Refereeing:

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Review, American Economic Review: Insights, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, American Journal of Political Science, Climate Policy, Econometrica, Economic Journal, Finance Research Letters, Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of Economic History, Journal of International Economics, Journal of the European Economics Association, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics, Journal of Public Economics, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies, Science, Quarterly Journal of Economics

Grants and Awards

2025	Kiel Excellence Award in Global Economic Affairs
2025	MIT Climate Project Grant, with B. Olken
2024	Harvard Data Science Initiative Grant, with K. Sastry and D. Yang
2023	Weiss Fund Grant, with S. Lowes, N. Nunn and A. A. Seck
2023	Participant in China Star Tour
2020	Hausman Dissertation Fellowship, MIT
2018, 2019 (x3)	George and Obie Shultz Fund Grant, MIT
2017-2018	Kenneth & Doreen Wang (1971) Fellowship, MIT
2016-2017	John Krob Castle Fellowship, MIT
2016	Thomas T. Hoopes Prize, Harvard
2016	Phi Beta Kappa, Harvard
2013	Lawrence Lader Prize, Harvard

Updated: April 2026