Ignacio Marra de Artiñano

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CURRENT POSITIONS

Assistant Professor – KU Leuven, Department of Economics 2027–

Postdoctoral Fellow – KU Leuven, Department of Economics 2026-2027

EDUCATION

PhD in Economics – Université Libre de Bruxelles and ECARES 2021-2026

Visiting PhD Student – Yale University, Department of Economics Fall 2024

MPhil in Economics – University of Oxford 2016-2018

Bachelor in Economics – Universidad Carlos III de Madrid 2010-2015

FIELDS

Primary: International Trade, Development Economics

Secondary: Labor Economics, Firms

PUBLICATIONS

(1) The Impact of Investment Promotion on Multinational Production: Firm-level Evidence
with Jeronimo Carballo & Christian Volpe
Journal of Development Economics, vol. 180, March 2026

(2) Automatic Product Classification in International Trade: Machine Learning and Large Language Models
with Franco Riottini & Christian Volpe
Review of International Economics, vol. 34 (1), February 2026

WORKING PAPERS

(1) The Labor Market Effects of Multinational Entry
Best Paper at Economics of Global Interactions 2025 (Wim Meeusen Prize and at FREIT-SETC 2025

WORK IN PROGRESS

(1) Linkages with Multinationals: The Effects on Domestic Firms' Exports, *with Jeronimo Carballo, Gianmarco Ottaviano & Christian Volpe* [Draft available]

(2) Financial Constraints to Exporting, *with Jie Bai, Lauren Bergquist & Christian Lippitsch* [Fieldwork ongoing]

(3) The Value of Organic Certifications, *with Franco Riottini, Gabriel Scattolo, Christian Volpe & Lucas Zavala* [Draft coming soon]

(4) Striving for Quality: The Impact of Quality Certifications, *with Jie Bai, Vittorio Bassi, Lauren Bergquist & Christian Lippitsch* [Fieldwork ongoing]

(5) Information Constraints in Supplier Linkages in Rwanda, *with Jie Bai, Vittorio Bassi, Lauren Bergquist & Christian Lippitsch* [Pilot ongoing]

(6) Embedding Machine Learning into the Tax Authority, *with Nicholas Musoke* [Pilot ongoing]

EXPERIENCE

Consultant – World Bank 2021-2023
Office of the Chief Economist for East Asia (2023), Investment Climate Division (2021-2022) Part-Time

Research Fellow – Inter-American Development Bank 2018-2021
Trade and Integration Division

Trade Policy Intern – United Nations 2017
Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific, Trade Division Summer

Research Assistant – Bank of Spain 2015
International Affairs Division

RESEARCH GRANTS
As PI / Co-PI

Striving for Quality (*with Jie Bai, Vittorio Bassi, Lauren Bergquist & Christian Lippitsch*)

- Structural Transformation & Economic Growth STEG, SRG and MRG (~140,000€) – 2026
- Yale Economic Growth Center (~20,000€) – 2025
- International Growth Centre, Small Project Grant (~35,000€) – 2025
- The Weiss Fund (~45,000€) – 2025

Embedding Machine Learning into the Tax Authority (*with Nicholas Musoke*)

- Structural Transformation & Economic Growth STEG, Small Research Grant (~15,000€) – 2025

Financial Constraints to Exporting (*with Jie Bai, Lauren Bergquist & Christian Lippitsch*)

- Private Enterprise Development in Low Income Countries PEDL (~170,000€) – 2024
- International Growth Centre, Large Research Grant (~115,000€) – 2024
- Structural Transformation & Economic Growth STEG, Major Research Grant (~115,000€) – 2024

Investor Performance and Tax Incentives in Rwanda (*with Mphatso Kumwenda & Marco Sanfilippo*)

- International Growth Centre, Small Research Grant (~20,000€) – 2024

The Local Impact of Global Firms: How Multinational Companies Affect Developing Countries

- Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique – FNRS, FRESH Grant (~90,000€) – 2023-2026

TEACHING

- *Master's Thesis* (Master). KU Leuven — 2026-2027
  Supervisor
- *Business Project* (Bachelor thesis). KU Leuven — 2026-2027
  Supervisor
- *Advanced Topics in International Economics* (ECON S320, Master). ULB — 2024-2026
  TA for Mathieu Parenti
- *Trade Policy and International Cooperation* (ECON 2865, Master). UCLouvain — 2024-2026
  TA for Lorenzo Trimarchi

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS
(scheduled)*

2026. *Job Market*: University of Oxford, KU Leuven, University of Oslo, Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance (EIEF), Bank of Italy, Bank of Spain, Paris School of Economics, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), LSE International Development, CUNEF. PEDL 15th Anniversary Conference, University of Tartu, IGC Rwanda Firms, Trade and Policy Workshop, University of Bergen, Organizations in Developing Countries Workshop, University of Antwerp*, International Conference on Voluntary and Mandatory Sustainable Value Chain Governance*.

2025. Kiel Trade Seminar, WEFIDEV-RFS-CEPR Finance and Development Conference, Belgian Labor Economics Day, Global Economic Policy Group, Queen Mary University, ENTER Jamboree, Global Economic Networks, European Economic Association, Economics of Global Interactions, European Trade Study Group, FREIT SETC, LSE-CEP-Warwick Junior Trade Workshop, University College London, Workshop of the Spanish Macroeconomics Network, University of Oxford, University of Oldenburg, Workshop on Structural Transformation, Urbanization, and Development

2024. Tilburg University, Université de Namur, ECARES, IGC-World Bank-MINICOM Conference on Industrial Policy, ENTER Jamboree, Firms, Labor Markets, and Development Workshop, European Association of Environmental and Resource Economics Conference, Yale University (x2), Inter-American Development Bank

2023. KU Leuven – UCLouvain Trade Seminar, Swedish Network for European Studies in Business and Economics, ECARES, Conference of the Spanish Association of International Economics, World Investment Forum, Sustainability of Supply Chains in Developing Countries (Kiel)

2022 and 2021. GEP-CEPR Postgraduate Conference, Spring Meeting of Young Economists, LAGV Conference in Public Economics, Conference of the Spanish Association of International Economics, European Trade Study Group, Economics of Global Interactions

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Refereeing: *Journal of International Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of International Trade and Economic Development, Open Economies Review*

Service: *ECARES PhD Representative (2023-2025), Economics and Management PhD Representative (2024-2025)*

POLICY WORK

(1) How Do Investment Promotion Policies Affect Sustainability? (*with Jeronimo Carballo, Monika Sztajerowska and Christian Volpe*). *IDB Working Paper, December 2023.*

(2) The Reorganization of Global Value Chains: What's in it for Latin America? (*with Juan Blyde, Marcelo Dolabella, Mauricio Mesquita, and Christian Volpe*). *IDB Working Paper, December 2022.*

(3) Making the Invisible Visible: Investment Promotion and Multinational Production in Latin America and the Caribbean. *Special Report on Integration and Trade – IDB, December 2021. Chapters 2 and 4.*

(4) Gender Wage Gaps in Spain *(with Brindusa Anghel and Ignacio Conde Ruiz – in Spanish). Hacienda Pública Española-Review of Public Economics (2019).*

(5) Gender Gaps in the Spanish Labor Market *(with Ignacio Conde Ruiz). Estudios sobre la Economía Española (2016/32) – Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada (FEDEA)*

Last updated: September 2026