

Ramses Y. Armendariz, Ph.D.

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Education

PH.D. | MARCH, 2016 | UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, TWIN CITIES

- Major: Economics
- Minor: International Trade and Development
- Thesis: Essays on Giffen behavior and international trade

B.SC. | NOVEMBER, 2007 | INSTITUTO TECNOLOGICO AUTONOMO DE MEXICO (ITAM)

- Major: Economics
- Minor: Economic policy
- Thesis: Non-econometric estimation of the size of the non-observed production

Teaching Experience

TEACHING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR | DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AT UIUC (CURRENT)

- Predictive analytics (undergraduate and graduate)
- Economic statistics II
- Macroeconomic principles
- Game theory (undergraduate and graduate)

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR | KELLEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AT IU (2018 - 2019)

- Economic modeling (first year Ph.D. class)
- Predictive analytics for business strategy
- Money, banking, and capital markets

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR | MONMOUTH COLLEGE (2015 - 2018)

- Intermediate price theory
- Industrial organization
- Food and economics
- Experimental economics (summer course)

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR | WEBSTER UNIVERSITY (2014 - 2015)

- International trade
- Business of sports

GRADUATE INSTRUCTOR | UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA (2010 - 2014)

- Cost-benefit analysis
- International trade

Awards

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING AWARD | U OF MINNESOTA (2014)

- Best graduate instructor at the University of Minnesota.

DISTINGUISHED INSTRUCTOR | U OF MINNESOTA, DEPT. OF ECONOMICS (2010 - 2013)

- Best graduate instructor at the University of Minnesota.

GRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP FELLOWSHIP | U OF MINNESOTA (2013)

- Perform a field study of Tequila producers in Tequila, Mexico.

Academic Service

MEMBER | UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS | TEACHING QUALITY TASK FORCE (2020 – CURRENT)

- Evaluating teaching quality at the Economics Dept.: Revising our methods and standards

CHAIR | MONMOUTH COLLEGE | QUANTITATIVE REASONING TASK FORCE (2017 – 2018)

- Oversee the level of quantitative reasoning of Monmouth College students.

CO-FOUNDER | MONMOUTH COLLEGE | GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE (2015 – 2018)

- Co-design and manage an interdisciplinary program in global food security.

Research

HUNGER AND THE DEMAND FOR CHEAP DIETARY STAPLES OF THE EXTREME POOR

- I construct a structural model of a poor household's demand for cheap dietary staples which embeds the feeling of hunger as a behavioral micro-foundation. I calibrate this model to account for the price elasticities of extreme poor households' demands for rice and wheat that Jensen and Miller (2008) estimate in two Chinese regions (Hunan and Gansu) using an experimental price subsidy. My model estimates that, depending on the treatment level, the willingness to pay for the price treatment is between 2.93% and 9.31% of the household's food expenditure pre-intervention (FEP), and the price treatment is equivalent to a lump-sum transfer of cash between 2.85% and 8.52% (FEP). Also, my model estimates that the real food expenditure in Hunan is 9,038 staple calories per household and 9,445 in Gansu, and that the price index of calories from non-staple sources is 3.1 times the price of staple calories in Hunan, while it is 4.2 in Gansu. This model is tractable and consistent with standard neoclassical economic theory. This property enables advanced students of undergraduate programs in Economics to replicate all the results.

THE TEQUILA PUZZLE: THE SURGE OF SMALL TEQUILA DISTILLERIES AFTER NAFTA

- First, we document the large surge of small Tequila distilleries specialized at exporting. Then, we use Melitz [2003] model as a baseline and the evolution in the size distribution of Bourbon and Tennessee whiskey producers as counter-factual to test whether denomination of origin is an intellectual trade policy that can promote the creation of small producers. We do not find evidence to presume that this policy promotes the creation of small producers. Instead, we find that this difference is primarily driven by differences in market size between Mexico and the US (co-authores: Timothy J. Kehoe and Pau S. Pujolas.)