Sebastian Sotelo

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Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Chicago, 2014
Committee: Sam Kortum (Chair), Nancy Stokey, Thomas Chaney
M.Res. Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain, 2008
B.A. Economics, Universidad del Pacifico, Peru, 2003

Professional Experience

Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Michigan, 2020 - present
Visiting Professor (María de Maeztu Program), CEMFI, 2026 - 27 Peter B. Kenen Fellow, International Economics Section, Princeton University, 2020 - 2021
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Michigan, 2014 - 2020

Affiliations and Other Positions

National Bureau of Economic Research, Research Fellow, 2022 - present
CESifo Research Network, Fellow, 2025 - present
Visiting Scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2022 - 23, 2025

Published and Forthcoming Papers

1. "Trade in Appliances, Household Production, and Labor Force Participation," with Pamela Medina and Daniel Velasquez, *Journal of International Economics*, Vol. 161, May 2026. Special Issue on Trade and Uneven Development
2. "Migration, Specialization and Trade: Evidence from Brazil's March to the West," with Heitor Pellegrina, *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 133, No. 12, December 2025, 3993-4049
3. "The Geography of Job Tasks," with Enghin Atalay and Daniel Tannenbaum, *Journal of Labor Economics*, Vol. 42, No. 4, October 2024, 979–1008
4. "Domestic Trade Frictions and Agriculture," *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 128, No. 7, July 2020, 2690-2738.
5. "The Evolution of Work in the United States," with Enghin Atalay, Phai Phongthientham and Daniel Tannenbaum, *AEJ: Applied Economics*, Vol. 12, No. 2, April 2020, 1-34

   *Awarded in 2023 best paper published in AEJ: Applied Economics in the past three years
6. "Trade-Induced Structural Change and the Skill Premium," with Javier Cravino, *AEJ: Macroeconomics*, Vol. 11, No. 3, July 2019, 289-326.
7. "New Technologies and the Labor Market," with Enghin Atalay, Phai Phongthientham, and Daniel Tannenbaum, *Journal of Monetary Economics*, Vol. 97, August 2018, 48-67 (Carnegie-Rochester-NYU Series).
8. "International Trade: Linking Micro and Macro," with Jonathan Eaton and Samuel Kortum, in Advances in Economics and Econometrics: 1st ed. Vol 2. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013, 329-370

Current research

1. "Deforestation: A Global and Dynamic Perspective," with Farid Farrokhi, Elliot Kang, and Heitor Pellegrina. NBER WP 34150, August 2025. Revise and Resubmit at *American Economic Review*
2. "An Anatomy of Firms' Political Speech," with Pablo Ottonello and Wenting Song

Work in progress

1. "Commodity Boom-Led Industrialization? The Case of Brazil before WWI, " with Andrei Laskievic, Brock Rowberry, and Heitor Pellegrina

Older working papers and pre-doctoral research

1. "The Inequality Implications of Occupational Evolution," with Enghin Atalay, Phai Phongthiengtham, and Daniel Tannenbaum, 2019
2. "Practical Aspects of Implementing the Multinomial PML Estimator", 2019
3. "The Burden of Debt: An Exploration of Interest Rate Behavior in Latin America," with Liliana Rojas-Suarez, Contemporary Economic Policy Vol. 25 (3), pp. 387-414, July 2007
4. "Fiscal Sustainability under Financial Volatility," with Daniel Dancourt, CIES working paper, 2004 (Undergraduate Thesis)

Presentations [Including scheduled]

STEG Conference	2027
Michigan State, SED, Sardinia Empirical Trade Conference, Sapienza, EIEF, Carlos III	2026
Toronto, LMU Munich, Philadelphia Fed	2025
UC Santa Barbara, Notre Dame, Penn State, Western Ontario, Seminario MAP (online), Universidad de San Marcos - Viernes Economico, Cornell, University of Florida, ITAM, Chicago Fed, SED Buenos Aires	2024
Seminario MAP (online), Duke Trade and the Environment Conference, World Bank, GEP-CEPR Summer Trade Workshop (Nottingham), Philadelphia Fed, San Francisco Fed, Fundação Getulio Vargas, IADB Trade Policy Research Seminar	2023
National University Singapore, Berkeley, UIBE (Beijing), London School of Economics, Notre Dame PAELLA Workshop, LACEA-LAMES (Lima)	2022
Dartmouth, Midwest Economic Association, Georgetown, Tuebingen, Nottingham GEP.	2021
Princeton, Corporacion Andina de Fomento, (Cancelled or postponed due to COVID: Ryerson, Philadelphia Fed, Warwick Trade Conference).	2020
Chicago Fed, H2D2 Research Day, Middlebury College, St. Louis Fed Macro-Trade Workshop, TIGN (Bogota), Rocky Mountain Empirical Trade (RMET) Conference, SED, UIBE GVC workshop (Beijing), Central Bank of Chile, Universidad del Pacifico, UCLA Trade Miniconference, Purdue, Berkeley ARE, InterAmerican Development Bank Econnet, World Bank.	2019
AEA Meetings, Intl. Conference of Agricultural Economists, Rochester Intl. Econ Conference, UM-MSU-UWO Labor Day, St. Louis Fed and Wash U Macroeconomics of Inequality Conference.	2018

Presentations [continued]

U Nebraska - Lincoln, TIGN - Montevideo, NBER Conference "Understanding Productivity Growth in Agriculture," Penn State, Upjohn Institute, Boston University, Congress of Peruvian Economic Assoc.	2017
Yale, SED, Michigan State, Notre Dame, Congress of Peruvian Economic Assoc.	2016
Brown, MEA Meetings, U Memphis, DePaul, Philadelphia Fed Brown Bag.	2015
Drexel, Federal Reserve Board of Governors, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, U Michigan - Ann Arbor, U Toronto, Penn State (New Faces in International Economics).	2014
Minneapolis Fed Brown Bag, IMF.	2013
LACEA-LAMES (Lima), XXIX Research Meetings of the Central Bank of Peru (Lima).	2012

Discussions and Panels [Including scheduled]

TIGN, Sardinia Empirical Trade Conference	2026
IDB New Productivity Agenda	2024
Online Spatial and Urban Seminar, Search and Matching in Macro and Finance, NBER SI - ITM	2022
ASSA meetings, MEA meetings	2021
Conference on Urban and Regional Economics	2020
RMET	2019
NBER Trade and Agriculture Conference, TIGN - Lima	2018
Empirical Investigations in International Trade	2016
Penn State (New Faces in International Economics), Midwest Economics Conference	2015

Dissertation Committees, by year

First placement in parenthesis; * indicates chair or co-chair

2017: Sui-Jade Ho (Bank Negara Malaysia), Seth Kingery

2019: Nicolas Morales (Richmond Fed), Vybhavi Balasundharam (IMF), Sam Haltenhof (Cornerstone)

2020: Luis Baldomero (College of William and Mary)

2021: Barthelemy Bonadio (U. Lausanne Postdoc, then NYU Abu Dhabi)

2022: Mos Laoprapassorn* (IMF), Jaedo Choi (FRB), Jamie Fogel (Opportunity Insights), Junwei Tang (Amazon), Jiafu Wang (Hong Kong Monetary Authority)

2023: Brian Cevallos Fujiy* (Census Bureau), Michelle Lam* (Bates White)

2024: Brock Rowberry* (World Bank YPP), Jose Ramon Moran* (Banco de Mexico), Agostina Brinatti (Yale Postdoc, then Booth), George Cui (IMF Postdoc), Luis Miguel Espinoza (Texas A&M Public Policy), Max Huppertz (Bank of England), Emir Murathanoglu (Oberlin), Dyanne Vaught (Treasury)

2025: Elliot Kang* (PriceWaterhouseCoopers), Daniel Velasquez* (Claremont-McKenna), Juan Sebastian Fernandez (University of the Balearic Islands), Xiaosheng Guo (Southwest University of Finance and Economics), Billy Huang (OMB)

2026: Razi Iqbal* (Analysis Group), Yuyao Wu*, Germano Wallerstein (IMF)

Current: Rosario Aldunate-Didier*, Raveesha Gupta*, Aneesha Parvathaneni, Brian Daza, Joaquin Endara

Service

At Michigan:

PhD Admissions Committee	2015-16, 25-26
Director of Graduate Studies	2022-2024
International Economics Seminar Co-Organizer	2014-20, 2021-present
Executive Committee	2018-19, 2022-present

Undergraduate Honors Committee	2017-18, 2019-20
Faculty coordinator, International-Macro Student Lunch	2022-24, 2025-present
Trade Breakfast Co-Organizer	2017-18
Graduate Program Committee	2016-17, 2021-22
SYLFF Committee	2021-22
Social Committee, PhD Admissions Committee	2014-15

Elsewhere:

LACEA-LAMES Program Co-Chair	2026
LACEA-LAMES Program Committee	2019, 2025
Urban Economics Association Conference Program Committee	2023
Program Committees: CEMLA-FRBNY-ECB Conference, Urban Economics Association Conference, LACEA-LAMES	2022
Empirical Investigations in International Trade Program Committee	2016

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards:

Best paper published in AEJ: Applied Economics	2023
Best Professor (voted by Economics Department PhD students)	2023
Nominated for Best Advisor ACUM Award (Michigan, nominated by graduate students)	2023
STEG Small Research Grant for "Deforestation: A Global and Dynamic Approach": £23,100 (Co-PI with Farid Farrokhi, Heitor Pellegrina, and Elliot Kang)	2022-23
STEG Small Research Grant for "Trade in Appliances, Household Production, and Labor Force Participation": £10,000 (Co-PI with Pamela Medina and Daniel Velasquez)	2022-23
MITRE Award, University of Michigan, "Trade, Agriculture, and the Organization of Economic Activity in Brazil": $24,963 (Co-PI with Heitor Pellegrina)	2022
Institute for Gender and the Economy (GATE) Grant for "Trade in Appliances, Household Production, and Labor Force Participation": $8,600 CAD. (Co-PI with Pamela Medina and Daniel Velasquez)	2021
Russell Sage Foundation Computational Social Science Grant for "Using Job Vacancy Ads to Study Long-Run Occupational Change": $114,772 (Co-PI with Enghin Atalay and Daniel Tannenbaum)	2018-20
Washington Center for Equitable Growth Grant for "Big Data and the Labor Market": $43,000 (Co-PI joint with Enghin Atalay and Daniel Tannenbaum)	2016-18
Sjaastad Research Fellowship Fund, The University of Chicago	2013-2014
Social Sciences Fellowship, The University of Chicago	2008-2013
Exchange Scholar, Yale Department of Economics	2013
Lee prize, Best Field Exam (Macroeconomics, joint winner), The University of Chicago	2010
Lee prize, Best Price Theory Core Exam, The University of Chicago	2010
Robert Maes Special Award, Universidad del Pacifico (Valedictorian)	2004
CIDA-IDRC grant for selected brief projects (awarded to Undergraduate thesis)	2004

Teaching

University of Michigan

- PhD: International Trade, International Finance
- Undergraduate: International Finance, International Trade, International Economics, Research Seminar in International Trade, Topics in International Trade and Spatial Economics (Undergraduate Level Writing Requirement)

Previous Positions

University of Chicago: Research Assistant to Samuel Kortum	2010-13
Center for Global Development: Research Assistant to Liliana Rojas-Suarez	2004-06
Universidad del Pacifico: Research Assistant to Eduardo Moron	2002-03

Refereeing

American Economic Review, Econometrica, Journal of Political Economy, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Journal of the European Economic Association, AEJ: Macroeconomics, AEJ: Microeconomics, AEJ: Economic Policy, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of International Economics, JPE Macroeconomics, Review of Economic Dynamics, Review of International Economics, International Economic Review, Canadian Journal of Economics, Economic Journal, European Economic Review, Journal of Development Economics, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, Journal of Economic Geography, IMF Economic Review, The World Economy, Applied Economics, Economia, National Science Foundation, STEG

Skills

Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent)