

MAXIMILIANO SOSA ANDRÉS

www.maximilianososa.com
maximiliano.sosa_andres@nek.uu.se

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS UPPSALA UNIVERSITY

Placement Officer: Lena Hensvik [lena.hensvik@nek.uu.se](mailto:lana.hensvik@nek.uu.se) +46(0) 18 471 1633
Placement Officer: Luca Repetto luca.repetto@nek.uu.se +46(0) 18 471 1637

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Kyrkogårdsgatan 10
Box 513, 751 20 Uppsala, Sweden
Phone: +46 (0) 760 718 014

PERSONAL INFORMATION: Birthdate: 23/04/1986. Sex: Male. Citizenship: Uruguay.

DOCTORAL STUDIES:

PhD, Economics, Uppsala University, 2018 to present
Visiting scholar, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona (Spain), 04/2022-07/2022
Thesis Title: “A Risky and Polarized World: Essays on Uncertainty, Ideology and Foreign Policy”
Expected Completion Date: June 2023

References

Professor Eva Mörk (advisor)
Department of Economics
Uppsala University
Phone: +46 (0)18 471 1096
E-mail: eva.mork@nek.uu.se

Associate Professor Luca Repetto (co-advisor)
Department of Economics
Uppsala University
Phone: +46 (0)18 471 1637
E-mail: luca.repetto@nek.uu.se

Professor Hannes Mueller
Institute for Economic Analysis
Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona
E-mail: hannes.mueller@iae.csic.es

PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES:

MSc, Economics, Universidad de Montevideo (Uruguay), 2013
ASP (MSc Equivalent) in International Economics – Kiel Institute for the World Economy (Germany), 2012
BA, Economics, Universidad de Montevideo (Uruguay), 2008

RESEARCH FIELDS:

Political economics, International economics, Applied econometrics.

JOB MARKET PAPER:

Legal uncertainty and its consequences: A natural language processing approach

Abstract: Unforeseeable changes in the legal environment are a source of legal uncertainty, which theory suggests is negative for firms' investment decisions. Yet, empirical evidence is limited. One reason is the difficulty of producing comparable measures across time and regions. This paper develops a new index of legal uncertainty, by extracting the information content in all laws approved in a country and year to calculate the unforecastable component in legal content. I present how the index is constructed, test its robustness and compare it with available measures of institutional quality. I show great variability in legal uncertainty across countries and institutional frameworks. I then apply the index to provide evidence on the consequences of legal uncertainty on investment and employment. Results show that, given an increase in legal uncertainty, firms react by slowing down investments and laying off workers.

WORKING PAPERS:

Divided government, polarization, and policy: Regression-discontinuity evidence from US states (with Luca Repetto)

Abstract: Divided governments are common in the US, both at the federal and state level, and yet whether they are an undesirable outcome of the political system or not is still a subject of debate. On the one hand, divided government may increase conflict among parties, leading to polarization, lowered legislative productivity or even gridlock. On the other hand, it also creates incentives to reach across the aisle, hence improving intra-party cooperation. In this paper, we use data on US states and a regression-discontinuity design to study how divided government affects the polarization of the legislature, inter-branch conflict, and policy implementation. We show that Republican state senators serving under a divided government have more conservative ideologies than those serving under a fully unified government. We document similar – but smaller – effects for Democrats. However, in terms of policy implementation, we find evidence of moderation: compared to unified Republican governments, divided ones with a democratic chamber implement more liberal policies. Correspondingly, when Democrats lose unified control, policies become more conservative. These results accord with theoretical work that predicts that divided government creates incentives for parties to polarize their platforms anticipating they will have to compromise to obtain their preferred policy.

Friends and foes in the UN: The impact of ideological alignment on human rights policy (with Jacob D. Christensen)

Abstract: Every year the 193 members of the United Nations make recommendations and observations to other member states with respect to human rights, under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Political bias in the assessments of human rights records is one of the main concerns regarding the effectiveness of UN mechanisms. We analyze if the political ideology of the current government drives international human rights policy or if policy is solely driven by human rights concerns. By combining UPR records with the rich data from the Database of Political Institutions, we implement a Regression Discontinuity Design to determine if shared ideology between two country governments affects human rights policy. By using text-mining techniques, we analyze the sentiment of messages and characterize them as positive or negative. We provide robust evidence that ideologically aligned governments send more positive and praising messages compared to non-aligned ones. Results suggest that more scrutiny is needed to analyze the content of human rights recommendations and the intent of the sender.

PUBLICATIONS (PEER-REVIEWED):

“Higher order risk attitudes in the time of COVID-19: An experimental study” *Oxford Economic Papers*, 71 (1), pages 1-20, 2022 (with Irene Mussio and Abdul Kidwai)

"Need, Merit, and Politics in Multilateral Aid Allocation: A District-Level Analysis of World Bank Projects in India" *Review of Development Economics*, 21(1), pages 126–156, 2017 (with Peter Nunnenkamp and Hannes Öhler)

“What drives FDI from non-traditional sources? A comparative analysis of the determinants of bilateral FDI flows” *Economics: E-Journal* 2013-1: pages 1–53 (Master Thesis, with Peter Nunnenkamp and Matthias Busse)

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Empirically Assessing the Conflict Risk of Surrogate Regimes During the Cold War, 1946-1989
The effect of uncertainty on consumption patterns: Evidence for the US using newspapers

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Spring, 2021,2020 Econometric II (PhD Level), Uppsala University, teaching assistant for Associate Professor Luca Repetto

OTHER EMPLOYMENT:

2016-2018 Uruguay Ministry of Finance - Advisor to the Director of National Investment
2008-2011 & Willis Towers Watson (Uruguay), Consultant
2012-2016

HONORS, GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS:

2022 Hedelius Scholarship (300 000 SEK) for academic research visit to Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona (Spain).
2011 Scholarship at Kiel Institute for the World Economy
2008 Top student certificate at Universidad de Montevideo - Awarded at the student with the highest GPA at the Faculty of Economics
2007 Scholarship “150 Anniversary of Santander Bank” - Utilized at Universidad de Alcala de Henares (Spain) for semester visit

COMPUTER SKILLS: Stata, Python, R / MS Office / Latex

LANGUAGES: English (fluent), Spanish (native), Italian (advanced), Portuguese (Advanced), Swedish (intermediate)

PRESENTATIONS:

Sweden Economic Association Annual Meeting, Stockholm, November 2022
Uppsala Center for Fiscal Studies Bi-Annual Meeting, Uppsala, October 2022
SUDSWEC Annual Workshop, Stockholm, September 2022
International Institute of Public Finance Annual Meeting, Linz, August 2022
Central Bank of Uruguay Economic Meeting, Montevideo, August 2022
Applied Econ and Machine Learning Group – Institut d’Anàlisi Econòmica, Barcelona, May 2022
Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, Mexico City, September 2021

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Reviewer: Journal of Institutional Economics, Business and Politics, World Economy
Memberships and Affiliations: European Economic Association, Uppsala Center for Fiscal Studies