

Alberto Vindas Q.

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Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Arizona State University; 2019 (expected).

M.Sc. in Economics (Research), London School of Economics and Political Science; 2013.

B.Sc. in Economics, University of Costa Rica; 2009.

References

Bart Hobijn (chair)
Professor of Economics
W.P. Carey School of Business
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Alexander Bick
Associate Professor of Economics
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Nancy Roberts (Teaching)
Emeritus Professor of Economics
W.P. Carey School of Business
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Research Fields

Macroeconomics, Economic Growth, Structural Transformation, Labor Economics.

Work in Progress

“[World Polarization.](#)” (Job Market Paper)

“[Structural Transformation by Cohort](#)”, with [B. Hobijn](#) and [T. Schoellman](#).

“[Job Polarization, Structural Transformation, and Labor Force Participation.](#)”

Publications

“Structural Transformation and Sectoral Productivity in Costa Rica”, with A. Alfaro (2015). **Central Bank of Costa Rica**, *Working Paper Series No. 07-2015* (In Spanish).

“Combination of Potential Product Estimations with Bayesian Averaging”, with C. Monge (2015). **Central Bank of Costa Rica**, *Working Paper Series No. 01-2015* (In Spanish).

“Price Adjustment in Costa Rica: A First Assessment Using Micro-Data” (2014). **Revista de Ciencias Económicas**, Instituto de Investigaciones en Ciencias Económicas, Universidad de Costa Rica, vol. 32, November.

“The Employment Dynamics in Costa Rica and the International Economic Crisis”, with A. Hernández & M. P. Zuñiga-Brenes (2013). In A. Ulate & M. Soto (eds.) **Costa Rica: Impacts and Lessons from the International Crisis 2008-2009**. United Nations Development Program & University of Costa Rica (In Spanish).

“The Out-of-Pocket and Catastrophic Health Expenditure Puzzle: The Costa Rican Case”, with M. P. Zuñiga-Brenes & J. R. Vargas-Brenes (2012). In Knaul, M.; Wong, R.; Arreola-Ornelas, H. (eds.) **Financing Health in Latin America, Volume 1: Household Spending and Impoverishment**. Global Health and Equity Series, Harvard University Press.

“Approximation of Seasonal Patterns in the Foreign Exchange Market in Costa Rica: 2006-2012”, with A. Rodríguez (2012). **Central Bank of Costa Rica**, *Working Paper Series No. 04-2012* (In Spanish).

“Validation of the ARMA Model for Inflation Forecasting in Costa Rica” (2011). **Central Bank of Costa Rica**, *Working Paper Series No. 03-2011* (In Spanish).

“Validation of the VAR Model of Monetary Policy Transmission Channels in Costa Rica”, with J. P. Vásquez, (2011). **Central Bank of Costa Rica**, *Working Paper Series No. 05-2011* (In Spanish).

Conferences

2018: Spring Midwest Macroeconomics Meetings, North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society, Western Economic Association Annual Conference.

Research Experience

Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis: Research Analyst (Summer 2017).

Central Bank of Costa Rica: Junior Researcher, Research Department (May 2011 - August 2012; August 2013 - July 2014).

University of Costa Rica: Junior Researcher, Development Observatory (August - December 2010). Research Assistant, Development Observatory (February - June 2010). Research Assistant, Central American Population Center (August 2007 - July 2010).

Teaching Experience

Instructor: Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory (ASU, Summer 2018), Macroeconomic Theory 2 (UCR, I-2014).

Online Courses: Introduction to Macroeconomics (ASU MOOC, 2017–2018, coder and forum manager).

Teaching Assistant: Topics in Macroeconomics 2 (UCR, II-2010), Topics in Macroeconomics 1 (UCR, I-2010), Intermediate Econometrics (UCR, I-2010), Basic Econometrics (UCR, II-2009), Development Economics (UCR, I-2009), Macroeconomic Theory 4 (UCR, I-2009), Microeconomic Theory 1 (UCR, II-2008), Macroeconomic Theory 3 (UCR, I-2008), Macroeconomic Theory 2 (UCR, I-2007).

Honors and Awards

CASEE Summer Fellowship (ASU, 2017).

Best writing performance in comprehensive exam (ASU, 2017).

Best oral performance in comprehensive exam (ASU, 2017).

Graduate Program scholarship (Central Bank of Costa Rica, 2012-2013).

Languages

Spanish (native), English (fluent).

Abstracts

[“World Polarization.”](#) (Job Market Paper)

Job polarization is a global phenomenon. I show this by extending the analysis of polarization from a group of developed countries to a sample of 119 economies. At all levels of development, employment shares in routine occupations have decreased since the 1980s. This suggests that routine occupations are becoming increasingly obsolete throughout the world, rather than being outsourced to developing countries. In order to study the technological trends behind this change, I propose a development accounting framework with technical change at the *task* level. This model allows me to quantify and extrapolate task-specific productivity levels. Recent technological change is biased against routine occupations and in favor of manual occupations. These trends imply that in the following decades, world polarization will continue: employment in routine occupations will decrease, and the reallocation will happen mostly from routine to manual occupations, rather than to abstract ones.

“Structural Transformation by Cohort”, with B. Hobijn and T. Schoellman.

More than half of labor reallocation during structural transformation can be attributed to new cohorts of workers disproportionately entering growing industries. This finding suggests substantial costs to reallocating workers across industries. We integrate an overlapping generations model of life-cycle career choice under switching costs with a canonical model of structural transformation. Switching costs accelerate structural transformation because they cause forward-looking workers to enter growing industries in anticipation of future productivity and wage growth. Most of the impact of switching costs, however, is on the trends in sectoral relative wages. An unanticipated acceleration of structural transformation makes more young workers line up in the service sector and reduces service sector wages. This comes disproportionately at the cost of expected future career earnings of older service sector workers.

“Job Polarization, Structural Transformation, and Labor Force Participation.”

This paper investigates the quantitative importance of the labor force participation margin in the labor market outcomes for the United States. During the last 50 years, the labor force has been shifting from producing goods to producing services. In terms of occupations, the routine share decreased, giving way to increases in manual and abstract ones. I argue that these two patterns are related, and that the expansion of the labor force had an important role. I propose and estimate a labor allocation model where goods, market services, and home services use different occupations as inputs. The driving force is productivity growth, which is occupation-specific. Quantitative exercises show that holding this participation channel could significantly slow down polarization and structural transformation, and induce significant displacement within the labor force.