
María BAS

PARIS SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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CURRENT POSITION: POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

10/08 - 01/09 **LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE (CEP)**
(4 months) Postdoctoral Fellow invited by Henry OVERMAN. Robert SOLOW Post-Doctoral Grant.

01 -07 / 2009 **PENN STATE UNIVERSITY**
(6 months) Postdoctoral Fellow invited by James R. TYBOUT. Robert SOLOW Post-Doctoral Grant.

EDUCATION

October 2004- **PARIS SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS (PSE)**

February 2008 **PhD in Economics at Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, with Highest Honors.** *Jury: Bruno AMABLE, Robert BOYER (Advisor), Philippe MARTIN, Thierry MAYER (President of the Jury), J-M. SIROEN and James R. TYBOUT.*

- ▶ PhD Thesis: "Trade policy, Productivity Gains and Technology Adoption: a heterogeneous firms approach".

2003 - 2004 **ECOLE DES HAUTES ETUDES EN SCIENCES SOCIALES EHESS (PARIS, FRANCE)**
Master in Institutional Economics with Highest Honors.

1998 - 2003 **BUENOS AIRES UNIVERSITY (ARGENTINA)**
Bachelor in Economics and Political Science with Highest Honors

REFERENCES

Professor Thierry MAYER

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75647 Paris , France
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Professor James R. TYBOUT

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Professor Karolina EKHOLM

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Professor Akiko SUWA-EISENMANN

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RESEARCH AREAS

- ▶ Primary fields: International Economics, International Trade, Micro-econometrics studies.
- ▶ Secondary fields: Development Economics.

TEACHING

2004 - 2008 **Teaching Assistant at “Université Paris Ouest – Nanterre La Défense”**
(4 years) ▶ Lectures: “International Economics”, “Macroeconomics” and “Economic Analysis”

GRANTS AND AWARDS

09 - 2008 Special Distinction of the French Economic Association (AFSE). Nominated for the Prize of best PhD Thesis.
2008 - 2009 Robert SOLOW Postdoctoral Grant.
02 - 2008 Prize of the best paper in International Economics, “*Trade, Technology Adoption and Wage Inequalities: Theory and Evidence*”, VIIIth RIEF doctoral meetings, Barcelona.
2004 - 2007 Doctoral Fellowship of French Ministry at the EHESS
2003 - 2004 EIFFEL Fellowship from French Government.

PUBLICATIONS

RESEARCH PAPERS

- “Trade, Technology Adoption and Wage Inequalities: Theory and Evidence”, February 2008, Working Paper PSE N° 2008-06. (Submitted)
- “Les effets du choix technologique des firmes sur la demande relative des travailleurs qualifiées”, October 2008 (Submitted).
- “Trade Integration and the evolution of within plant productivity in Chile”, with Ivan Ledezma (PSE), February 2007, CESifo Working Paper No. 2077, CESifo GmbH. (Submitted).
- “Trade liberalization and heterogeneous within-firm productivity improvements”, with Ivan Ledezma (PSE), May 2006, Working Paper PSE No 2006-36.

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

- “Trade Integration in manufacturing: the Chilean experience”, with Ivan Ledezma, Forthcoming. in Vol. 12: Gabriele Tondl (ed.), The EU and Emerging Markets (due January 2009), ECSA editions.
- “The effects of trade Liberalization on export specialization: The Argentinean case”, written jointly with Ivan Ledezma, January 2007, CEIL-PIETTE COINICET Editions.

REPORTS

- “The effects and determinants of Innovation in Latin American countries”, January 2008, report OECD.
- “Budgeting at a glance in Latin America: the results of the 2006 OECD survey on budget procedures and practices for Latin American countries”, with Teresa Curristine, January 2007, report OECD, GOV/PGC/SBO (2007)3.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- “Foreign competition, Trade in intermediate inputs and Productivity: Evidence from Chile and Argentina”

REFEREE REPORTS: Journal of International Economics.

MAIN CONFERENCES

- Accepted at 2009 North American Econometric Society Winter meetings, San Francisco January 3-5 2009.
- 57ème congrès de l'Association Française de Sciences Economiques, Paris, September 18 -19, 2008.
- “Workshop Trade and the Euro”, EFIGE and World Trade Institute, Bern, September 11-12, 2008
- 23rd Meeting of the EEA-ESEM, Milan, August 27-31, 2008.
- “Small Open Economies in a Globalized World Conference”, Waterloo, Canada, June 12-16, 2008.
- “European Research Workshop: On International Trade”, CEPR - University of St.Gallen June 5-7, 2008.
- Doctoral Meeting “Research in International Economics and Finance (RIEF)”, Barcelona, 31/01/2008
- Fifth annual conference of the Euro-Latin study network on integration and trade (ELSNIT), Barcelona, October 26-27, 2007. Discussed by Karolina EKHOLM.
- Workshop “EU and emerging markets: Trade and Investment Relations” ECSA, Vienna June 8-9, 2007.
- CESifo "The Economics of Aggregate Shocks in Heterogeneous Firm Models", Venice July 18-19, 2007.
- CESifo Conference on “Productivity and Growth”, Munich, June 22-23, 2007.
- Research in International Economics and Finance (RIEF), Rome, May 11-12, 2007.
- The XIth Spring Meeting of Young Economists, Seville, May 2006.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2007 - 12/2007 **EXTERNAL CONSULTANT AT THE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE OF THE OECD** (PARIS, FRANCE)

- ▶ Report on “*The effects and determinants of Innovation in Latin American countries*”
- ▶ References: Juan-Ramón de Laiglesia and Pablo Zoido.

2006 - 01/2007 **EXTERNAL CONSULTANT AT THE OECD** (PARIS, FRANCE)

- ▶ Report on “*Budgeting at a Glance in Latin America: The results of the 2006 OECD Survey on Budget Procedures and Practices for Latin American countries*”
- ▶ References: Teresa Curristine.

LANGUAGES AND SOFTWARES

English / French / Spanish

Fluent

Software SAS, STATA, Matlab, Matematica.

Research Papers

“Trade, Technology Adoption and Wage Inequalities: Theory and Evidence”, September 2007 (revised March 2008), Job Market Paper, Working paper PSE No 2008-06 (Submitted)

This paper develops a model of trade that features heterogeneous firms, technology choice and different types of skilled labor in a general equilibrium framework. Its main contribution is to explain the impact of trade integration on technology adoption and wage inequalities. It also provides empirical evidence to support the model’s main predictions using plant-level panel data from Chile’s manufacturing sector (1990-1999). The theoretical framework offers a possible explanation of the puzzling increase in skill premium in the developing countries. The key mechanism is found in the effects of trade policy on the number of new firms upgrading technology and on the skill-intensity of labor. Trade liberalization pushes up export revenues, raising the probability that the most productive exporters will upgrade their technology. These firms then increase their relative demand for skilled labor, thereby raising inequalities.

Keywords: Firm heterogeneity, trade reforms, technology adoption, skill premium, plant panel data.

JEL Classification: F10, F12 and F41

“Trade Integration and the evolution of within plant productivity in Chile”, with Ivan Ledezma, April 2007, (revised December 2007), CESifo Working Paper No. 2077, (Submitted).

This paper studies the impact of trade reforms on the evolution of plant’s productivity. We use plant level panel data of Chilean’s manufacturing for the period 1979-2000. The main contribution of the paper is to construct detailed measures of trade liberalization disentangling the impact of export and import oriented policies. Firstly, we estimate the production functions to obtain factor contributions and to compute plant’s TFP controlling for firm heterogeneous productivity which is unobservable and evolves over the time. Secondly, we construct a measure of market access as an outcome of trade policies by estimating the difficulties to trade (border effects) between Chile and its main trading partners at the industry level and across time using a gravity model. Finally, we estimate the impact of trade reform on plant’s productivity using the border effects estimated in the previous step. We find evidence of a positive impact of export oriented policies on productivity of traded sectors relative to non traded. On the other hand, relative to the latter, the reduction of import barriers might have a positive impact on productivity in export oriented sectors, but it hurts local firms in import competing ones probably due to the existence of increasing returns.

Keywords: Firm heterogeneity, trade reforms, productivity gains, plant panel data.

JEL Classification: F1, F4 and O1

“Trade liberalization and heterogeneous within-firm productivity improvements” with Ivan Ledezma, May 2008 .

This paper develops an intra-industry model of trade with heterogeneous firms to investigate the impact of trade on the evolution of within firm productivity. The main contribution is to incorporate endogenous labor productivity gains. Heterogeneous firms have different incentives to invest in foreign technology which in turns enhances efficiency heterogeneously. Trade liberalization reduces the price of imported capital equipment and increases factor demands. These mechanisms introduce two novel results. First, aggregate productivity increases due to within-firm productivity improvements. Second, tariffs reduction has little impact on the extensive margin of trade in countries already highly open.

Keywords: trade liberalization, firm heterogeneity, endogenous productivity gains, extensive margin of trade.

JEL Classification: F10, F12 and F41.