

JOSE LUIS MONTIEL OLEA

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Cornell University, Economics Department
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Louis Salvatore '92 Faculty Leadership Fellow, Cornell University October 2024-
Associate Professor (tenured), Cornell University (Economics) July 2022-
Visiting Assistant Professor, Princeton University (Economics) Jan. 2020-July 2020
Assistant Professor, Columbia University (Economics) July 2016-July 2022
Assistant Professor, New York University (Economics) Aug. 2013-June 2016

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in Economics, Harvard University Sept. 2008-May 2013
Thesis: "*Essays on Econometrics and Decision Theory*"
B.A., Economics; M.A., Economic Theory, ITAM (México) Aug. 2001-May 2006

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Econometrics, Machine Learning, Statistical Decision Theory, Time Series.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

Cornell Center for Data Science for Enterprise and Society July 2022-
The Data Science Institute at Columbia University Aug. 2018-July 2022

National Research Council (Mexico), Level I

Since Jan. 2020

EDITORIAL POSITIONS:

Associate Editor, The Econometrics Journal

Feb. 2025-

Associate Editor, Econometric Theory

Nov. 2024-

Associate Editor, Review of Economics and Statistics

Feb. 2020-Dec. 2022

Associate Editor, Journal of Business & Economic Statistics

Jan. 2022-July 2024

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS:

1. “A Robust Test for Weak Instruments”,
(Joint with Carolin Pflueger)
Journal of Business & Economic Statistics
Vol. 31, No. 3, July 2013, 358 – 369.
2. “Axiomatization and Measurement of Quasi-hyperbolic Discounting”,
(Joint with Tomasz Strzalecki)
Quarterly Journal of Economics
Vol. 129, Issue 3, August 2014, 1449-1499.
3. “Delta-Method Inference for a class of Set-Identified SVARs”,
(Joint with Bulat Gafarov and Matthias Meier)
Journal of Econometrics
Volume 203, Issue 2, April 2018, pp. 316-327.
4. “Marginal Tax Rates and Income: New Time Series Evidence”,
(Joint with Karel Mertens)
Quarterly Journal of Economics
Volume 133, Issue 4, November 2018, pp. 1803-1884.
5. “The A/B Testing Problem”,
(Joint with Eduardo Azevedo, Alex Deng, Justin Rao, and Glen Weyl)
Proceedings of the 2018 ACM Conference on Economics and Computation,
June 2018, pp. 461-462.

6. “Simultaneous Confidence Bands: Theory, Implementation, and an Application to SVARs”,
(Joint with Mikkel Plagborg-Møller)
Journal of Applied Econometrics
Volume 34, Issue 1, January 2019, pp. 1-17.
7. “Empirical Bayes Estimation of Treatment Effects with Many A/B Tests: An Overview”,
(Joint with Eduardo M. Azevedo, Alex Deng, Justin Rao, and E. Glen Weyl)
AEA Papers & Proceedings
Volume 109, May 2019, pp. 43-47.
8. “Admissible, Similar Tests: A characterization”,
Econometric Theory
Volume 36, Issue 2, April 2020, pp. 347-366.
9. “Posterior Distribution of Nondifferentiable Functions”,
(Joint with Toru Kitagawa, Jonathan Payne, and Amilcar Velez Salamanca)
Journal of Econometrics
Volume 217, Issue 1, July 2020, pp. 161-175.
10. “A/B Testing with Fat Tails”,
(Joint with Eduardo Azevedo, Alex Den, Justin Rao, and E. Glen E. Weyl)
Journal of Political Economy
Volume 128, Number 12, December 2020, pp. 4614-4672.
11. “(Machine) Learning Parameter Regions”,
(Joint with James Nesbit)
Journal of Econometrics
Volume 222, Issue 1, Part C, May 2021, pp. 716-744.
12. “Local Projection Inference is Simpler and More Robust Than You Think”,
(Joint with Mikkel Plagborg-Møller)
Econometrica
Volume 89, No. 4, July 2021, pp. 1789-1823.
13. “Inference in Structural VARs with External Instruments”,
(Joint with James H. Stock and Mark Watson)
Journal of Econometrics
Volume 225, Issue 1, November 2021, pp. 74-87.

14. “SVAR Identification from Higher Moments: Has the Simultaneous Causality Problem Been Solved?”,
(Joint with Mikkel Plagborg-Møller and Eric Qian)
AEA Papers & Proceedings
Volume 112, May 2022, pp. 481-485.
15. “On the Robustness to Misspecification of α -Posteriors and Their Variational Approximations”,
(Joint with Marco Avella, Cynthia Rush, and Amilcar Velez)
Journal of Machine Learning Research
Volume 23, July 2022, pp. 1-51.
16. “Competing Models”,
(Joint with Pietro Ortoleva, Mallesh Pai, and Andrea Prat)
Quarterly Journal of Economics
Volume 137, Issue 4, November 2022, pp. 2419-2457.
17. “The A/B testing problem with Gaussian Priors”,
(Joint with Eduardo Azevedo, David Mao, and Amilcar Velez)
Journal of Economic Theory
Volume 210, June 2023.
18. “Dropout Training is Distributionally Robust Optimal”,
(Joint with José Blanchet, Yang Kang, Viet Ahn Nguyen, and Xuhui Zhang)
Journal of Machine Learning Research
Volume 24, pp. 1-60, August 2023.
19. “Robust Machine Learning Algorithms for Text Analysis”,
(Joint with Barry Shikun Ke and James Nesbit)
Quantitative Economics
Volume 15, Issue 4, pp. 939-970, November 2024.
20. “Local Projections or VARs? A primer for Macroeconomists” (Joint with Mikkel Plagborg-Møller, Eric Qian, and Christian K. Wolf)
NBER Macroeconomics Annual 2025
Volume 40, March 2025.
21. “The distributionally robust prediction error of the square-root lasso and related estimators” (Joint with Johannes Wiesel, Cindy Rush, and Amilcar Velez)
The Annals of Statistics
Volume 54, Issue 2, pp. 1006-1027, April 2026.

22. “Decision Theory for Treatment Choice Problems with Partial Identification” (joint w/ Chen Qiu and Jörg Stoye)
The Review of Economic Studies
Accepted.
23. “Double Robustness of Local Projections and Some Unpleasant VARithmetic” (Joint with Mikkel Plagborg-Møller, Eric Qian, and Christian K. Wolf)
Econometrica
Accepted.
24. “Robust Bayes Treatment Choice with Partial Identification” (Joint with Andres Aradillas Fernandez, Chen Qiu, Jörg Stoye, and Serdil Tinda)
Econometric Theory
Accepted.
25. “Projection Inference for Set-Identified SVARs”,
(Joint with Bulat Gafarov and Matthias Meier)
Econometrics Journal
Accepted.
26. “On the Testability of the Anchor Words Assumption in Topic Models” (joint w/ Barry Ke, Simon Freyaldenhoven, and Dingyi Li)
Conditionally Accepted at Quantitative Economics
Latest Version: October 2025.
27. “Externally Valid Selection of Experimental Sites via the k-Median Problem” (Joint with Brenda Prallon, Chen Qiu, Jörg Stoye, and Yiwei Sun)
Revision Requested at JPE:Micro
Latest Version: August 2025.
28. “Epsilon-Minimax Solutions of Statistical Decisions Problems” (Joint with Andres Aradillas Fernandez, José Blanchet, Chen Qiu, Jörg Stoye, and Lezhi-Tan)
Revision Requested at the Journal of Econometrics
Latest Version: September 2025.
29. “Approximately Least-Favorable Distributions and Nearly Optimal Tests via Stochastic Mirror Descent” (joint with Andres Aradillas Fernandez, José Blanchet, Chen Qiu, Joerg Stoye, and Lezhi Tan)
Latest Version: November 2025.
30. “Competing Ideologies: Fit, Simplicity, and Fear” (joint with Andrea Prat)
Latest Version: March 2025.

31. “Evaluating Counterfactual Policies Using Instruments” (joint with Jonathan Roth and Michal Kolesár)
Latest Version: December 2025.

32. “Endogenous Misspecification” (joint with Sebastian Guarda and Pietro Ortoleva)
Latest Version: December 2025.

AWARDS:

2008. Best Undergraduate Thesis; ITAM (“A characterization of Trivial Unawareness”)

2011. Certificate of Distinction in Teaching; awarded by the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning at Harvard University (for outstanding teaching assistance in graduate “Introduction to Probability and Statistics”)

2016. Best Paper in Applied Economics by Young Researchers; awarded by the Econometric Society at the European Meetings in Geneve (“Projection Inference for Set-Identified SVARs”)

2019. Provost’s Grant Program for Junior Faculty who Contribute to the Diversity Goals of Columbia University (“The Geography of Lethal Force”)

2019. Lenfest Junior Faculty Development Grant Review (“What can Machine Learning and Text Analysis Teach Us About Monetary Policy in the United States”)

2020. Best First Year Professor; awarded by the Association of Graduate Economics Students at Columbia University (“Introduction to Econometrics I”)

2021. Russell Sage Foundation Presidential Authority Grant: Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration (with Dan O’Flaherty and Rajiv Sethi; “Disparate Impact in Police Homicides”)

2022. Wiley’s author award for top cited article published in Econometrica in an issue between January 2021 and December 2022.

2023. NSF Award “Mostly Harmless Statistical Decision Theory” Start Date: 07/15/2023
End Date: 06/30/2026.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Referee Activities: American Economic Review, Econometrica, Econometric Theory, Games and Economic Behavior, Journal of the American Statistical Association, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Business and Economic Statistics, Journal of

Econometrics, Journal of Econometric Methods, Journal of Machine Learning Research, Journal of Monetary Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Public Economics, Mathematics of Operations Research, Mathematical Social Sciences, Operations Research, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, PNAS, Quantitative Economics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies.

Seminars and Presentations:

2025: USC (February), 15th Workshop in Time Series Econometrics in Zaragoza (February), Penn State (April), Stanford (May), University of Montreal (May), University of Chicago (May).

2024: UT Austin (April), Optimization Conscious Econometrics Conference (University of Chicago, June), SIDE Summer School (Italian Society of Econometrics, July), Machine Learning in Economics Summer Conference (University of Chicago, August), University of Wisconsin (December).

2023: Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (May), University of California at Santa Barbara (May), Machine Learning: Applications and Theory Conference at University of Chicago (June), Bravo/JEA workshop on "Using Data to Make Decisions" at Brown University (July), Cornell University (Statistics, September), Cornell/Penn State IO-Econometrics Conference (October).

2022: AEA Meetings (January); Applied Machine Learning, Economics, and Data Science Online Seminar (April), Cornell/Penn State IO-Econometrics Conference (September).

2021: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia (March), University of Bonn/University of Mannheim (March), University of Pennsylvania (March), Cornell University (May), Harvard-MIT (October), NY Federal Reserve (October), Emory (October), UT Austin (November), Princeton-ORFE (November), Brown (November).

2020: Princeton University (February), Emory University (February); Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (February), University of Southern California (August), Columbia University (Statistics, September), SMU SOE/NUS (October), University of California at Davis (October), Duke University (October).

2019: AEA Meetings (January); Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research (March); NSF Seminar on Bayesian Inference in Econometrics and Statistics (May); Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia (July), CEME Conference/UCLA (September), Northwestern University (November), Yale University (November).

2018: Conference on Optimization and Machine Learning in Economics-University College London (March); City University of New York (May); Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (May); Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia (May); University of Texas at Austin (May), ITAM (August); Microsoft Research Lab-New England (December).

2017: University of California at Los Angeles (May), University of Chicago (May), University of Michigan (November), Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia (December).

2016: Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland (May), CEME Conference at Duke University (September), Workshop on New Approaches to Identification of Macroeconomic Models/Oxford (September), Universitat Pompeu Fabra (September), Tilburg University (November), Erasmus University Rotterdam (December), University of Amsterdam (December).

2015: University College London (March); London School of Economics (March); Ohio State University (April); University of California at San Diego (June); CEME Conference at Cornell University (September); Boston University (September); Interactions Conference at Chicago University (September); Columbia University (October); University of Michigan (October); University of Pennsylvania (December).

2014: Princeton University (February); Stern Macroeconomics Lunch Seminar (September); Harvard Econometrics Lunch (September); NSF-Times Series Conference (September); University of Wisconsin (October); ITAM (October); Vanderbilt University (November); Brown University (November); Rutgers University (November); Cornell University (December), University of Michigan (December).

2013: University of Michigan (January); Duke University (January); University of California at Davis (January); Brown University (January); NYU (January, March, September); Chicago Booth (February); Toulouse School of Economics (February); Imperial College London-Business School (February); Cowles Conference at Yale University (June); PSU (September); Columbia University (October); Latin American Meeting of the Econometric Society (October); University of Chicago (October); Northwestern University (October).

COURSES TAUGHT:

Analytical Statistics (College of Arts and Sciences, NYU; Spring 2014); *Topics in Econometrics* (College of Arts and Sciences, NYU; Spring 2015); *Introduction to Econometrics* (College of Arts and Sciences, NYU; Spring 2016); *Econometrics I* (Ph.D. Economics, NYU: Fall 2013, Fall 2015, Fall 2016; Columbia: Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020); *Econometrics of Times Series* (Columbia College; Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019); *Statistical Decision Theory* (Cornell A&S; Spring 2023, Fall 2023); *Topics in Econometrics I: Econometrics and Machine Learning* (Ph.D. Economics, Columbia

University: Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2020; Princeton University: Spring 2020; Cornell University: Spring 2023, Fall 2024).

PHD STUDENTS-COMMITTEE MEMBER (INITIAL PLACEMENT):

Kyle Kuang (University of Manchester); Junlong Feng (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology); James Nesbit (Amazon); Keith O'Hara (Amazon).

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS-LETTER WRITER FOR PHD ADMISSIONS (PLACEMENT):

Clemente Antuna (Stanford GSB); Andres Aradillas Fernandez (MIT); Joe Campbell (University of Chicago), Jin Fu (Brown University); Qifan Han (Boston University); Emma Li (Stanford); Ignacio Lopez Gaffney (Yale); Wenda Ma (USC); Kristin Petersmann (Brown University); Barry Shikun Ke (Yale School of Management); Serdil Tinda (Stanford); Giovanni Topa (New York University); Daniel Vebman (Yale); (Amilcar Velez (Northwestern University); Clara Xu (Wharton); Oscar Wahlstrom (Brown University), Finn Ye (Cornell).

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Born in Mexico (1983). Married; one child. Permanent Resident of the United States.