

Isabela Manelici

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Employment	London School of Economics Department of Economics. Assistant Professor Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Economics. Visiting Professor Princeton University IES and Department of Economics. Postdoctoral Associate The World Bank Infrastructure Unit. Junior Professional Associate	London, UK 2021- Cambridge MA, US Spring and Fall, 2024 Princeton NJ, US 2020-2021 Washington DC, US 2010-2012
Appointments	European Commission, DG GROW 2026 Fellow ROCKWOOL Foundation Berlin (RFBerlin), Research Affiliate International Growth Centre (IGC), Research Affiliate CESifo Research Network, Global Economy, Affiliate Programme on Innovation and Diffusion (POID), Senior Associate CEPR, International Trade and Regional Economics, Research Affiliate Centre for Economic Performance (CEP), Trade and Urban, Associate Suntory & Toyota International Centre for Economics (STICERD), Associate	2026 2025- 2025- 2022- 2022- 2021- 2021- 2021-
Editorial Roles	Editorial Board Member, <i>Review of Economic Studies</i> Associate Editor, <i>Journal of International Economics</i>	2024- 2023-
Short-Term Visits and Fellowships	Yale University Cowles Foundation and Department of Economics. Visiting Faculty Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) Munich Junior Fellowship in International Trade Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth International Economics Visiting Scholar	New Haven CT, US April, 2023 Munich, DE Summer, 2022 Hanover NH, US Fall, 2018
Education	University of California, Berkeley Department of Economics. Ph.D. in Economics CEMFI (Centro de Estudios Monetarios y Financieros) Master in Economics and Finance École Polytechnique - École des Mines - École des Ponts Master in Transportation and Sustainable Development École des Ponts ParisTech Ingénieur de l'École des Ponts ParisTech. Major in Civil Engineering	Berkeley, US 2015-2020 Madrid, ES 2012-2014 Paris, FR 2009-2010 Paris, FR 2007-2009
Interests	International Economics, Economic Development, Firm Organisation	
Peer-Reviewed Publications	“The Effects of Joining Multinational Supply Chains: New Evidence from Firm-to-Firm Linkages” (w/ Alonso Alfaro-Ureña & José P. Vasquez). <i>Quarterly Journal of Economics</i> . Vol. 137, Issue 3, August 2022, Pages 1495-1552 “Industrial Policy at Work: Evidence from Romania’s Income Tax Break for Workers in IT” (w/ Smaranda Pantea). <i>European Economic Review</i> , Vol. 133, April 2021 “Terrorism and the Value of Proximity to Public Transportation: Evidence from the London Bombings.” <i>Journal of Urban Economics</i> , Vol. 102, Nov. 2017, Pages 52-75	
Working Papers	“Responsible Sourcing? Evidence from Costa Rica” (w/ Alonso Alfaro-Ureña, Benjamin Faber, Cecile Gaubert & José P. Vasquez). Second Round Revise & Resubmit at the <i>American Economic Review</i>	

“The Anatomy of Domestic Production Networks: Evidence from Costa Rica” (w/ w/ Alonso Alfaro-Ureña, Mariany Fuentes, José Ignacio González & José P. Vasquez)

“The Gains from Foreign Multinationals in an Economy with Distortions” (w/ Mauricio Ulate, José P. Vasquez & Román David Zárate)

“The Effects of Multinational Firms on Workers: Evidence from Costa Rican Microdata” (w/ Alonso Alfaro-Ureña & José P. Vasquez)

Selected Work in Progress

“Managing Innovation in Firms” (w/ Ingrid Haegele, José P. Vasquez & Francis Wong)

“The Ins and Outs of Multinational Firms in Five National Production Networks” (w/ Alonso Alfaro-Ureña, Banu Demir, Cédric Duprez, Priya Manwaring & José P. Vasquez). Part of ERC STG LINK4DEV agenda

“Multinationals in (Four) Production Networks: The Efficiency and Aggregate Implications of Technology Transfers” (w/ Alonso Alfaro-Ureña, Banu Demir, Cédric Duprez, Priya Manwaring, Thomas Sampson & José P. Vasquez). Part of ERC STG LINK4DEV agenda

“Global Sourcing Within the Multinational Firm” (w/ Amit Khandelwal, Rocco Macchiavello & José P. Vasquez). Part of ERC STG LINK4DEV agenda

“Who Pays the Price of Supply Chain Disruptions? Evidence from a Cyberattack on Customs” (w/ Jonathan Garita, José P. Vasquez & Alberto Vindas). Part of ERC STG LINK4DEV agenda

Other Publications

VoxDevLit Foreign Direct Investment and Development (w/ Alviarez, Boudreau, Dardati, Fan, Farrokhi, Garcia-Lembergman, Garetto, Gu, Hale, Hemous, Limodio, Martin, Morales, Pandalai-Nayar, Pavcnik, Pellegrina, Ramondo, Vasquez, and Vezina). Volume 13(1). February 2025

VoxDevLit International Trade (w/ Atkin, Boudreau, Dix-Carneiro, Khandelwal, McCaig, Medina, Morjaria, Pascali, Rijkers, and Startz). Volume 4(2). February 2025

Honors, Grants, Fellowships

2025-2030 ERC Starting Grant for LINK4DEV (“Can Multinational Linkages Be Leveraged for Development?”), Principal Investigator, 1.49 million Euros

2024 Duke University Applied Micro Jamboree (*selected participant*)

2024 LSE Excellence in Education Award (on the recommendation of the Head of Department, awarded for outstanding teaching contribution and educational leadership)

2021 Structural Transformation & Economic Growth (STEG) Research Grant £15,000

2020 China Star Tour; Journal of Development Economics Award; UC Berkeley Department of Economics Graduate Student Award for Public Policy Research; Best Graduate Student Submission at the West Coast Trade Workshop

2019-2020 Center for Equitable Growth Continuing Student Fellowship, Tuition Fees and Stipend for One Semester; Opportunity Lab, Promoting Opportunity and Growth through Place-Based Policies Initiative \$5,000

2019+2018+2016 Clausen Center Grant Award for Doctoral Research (UC Berkeley), \$4,000 + \$5,000 + \$3,000

2018-2019 + 2017-2018 Burch Center for Tax Policy and Public Finance Fellowship, Tuition Fees and Stipend for One Semester per Academic Year

2018-2019 + 2017-2018 Exploratory Research Grants from PEDL (CEPR / DFID Research Initiative), £11,060 + £11,000

2018 Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) 2018 Spring Development Challenge Award, \$5,000

2017 George Break Prize in Public Finance for Outstanding Performance in the Public Finance Field Courses, UC Berkeley (Berkeley, CA)

2016-2017 Weiss Family Program Funding for Research in Development Economics (Harvard Economics Department), \$12,800
2016 Summer Fellowship from the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (UC Berkeley), \$2,500
2015-2020 Economics Department Fellowship (UC Berkeley)
2014-2015 GSAS Fellowship and Wueller Fellowship (Columbia University)
2014 Luis Angel Rojo Award for the Best Student of the 2012-2014 Class, Master in Economics and Finance, CEMFI (Madrid, ES)
2012-2014 Fellowship (Bank of Spain)
2011 Class Valedictorian, Master in Transportation and Sustainable Development, École Polytechnique - École des Mines - École des Ponts (Paris, FR)
2009-2010 Unconditional Scholarship (Renault Foundation)
2009 Agustín de Betancourt Excellence Prize, École des Ponts (Paris, FR)

**Presentations,
Ordered by Date**

2026 [*Spring term: maternity leave #2*] CEP Annual Conference (Growth Session), CEPR Workshop on “Growth, Innovation and Social Model in Europe”, CEP-IFS Labour Conference, Uppsala U, CEU, ETH Zurich, Stockholm School of Economics

2025 PSE/EU Tax Observatory, Nottingham Globalisation and Economic Policy/CEPR Postgraduate Conference (*keynote*), Kiel Institute for the World Economy/CEPR Workshop on “Firms and International Trade” (*keynote*), NBER SI Development Economics, Stanford/SITE, ERMAS, ESADE, IFC, EIEF, Imperial College London, Monash/OASIS, TEDE/Birmingham

2024 Dartmouth/Tuck International Economics Sem., MIT/Harvard International Sem., USC Econ/Marshall Trade/Spatial Mini-Conference, Tufts U Departmental Sem., Boston U (International/Development Sem.), NYU Development Sem., Columbia U Development Sem., Penn State Trade & Development Sem., Minneapolis Fed, NBER “Megafirms and the Economy” Conf., Michigan International Sem., UToronto Trade Mini-Conf., Harvard/MIT Development Sem., UChicago Trade & Spatial Day, NEUDC, UCSD Trade/Spatial Day, Boston College, UC Berkeley, UCLA

2023 IFC/World Bank/IGC “Private Sector Development Research Network”, Yale Development Lunch, CEP Annual Conf., GEP-CEPR Summer Trade Workshop, “VI Madrid Macroeconomics Annual Conf.: International Trade”, ECARES (ULB), “Trade, Firms, and Economic Development” Mannheim Workshop, Stockholm U Departmental Sem., Atlanta Fed “Firm Dynamics and the Macroeconomy” Conf., Yale/IGC Conf. on “Firms, Trade and Development”, 4th “Women in International Economics” Conf. (Rochester U), Goethe U, TSE Development Sem., Indiana U, EUI-IHEID Winter Workshop on Trade and Development

2022 Warwick, Johns Hopkins SAIS, ERMAS, ECARES (ULB), Università Cattolica Milano, Northwestern Development Rookiefest, Cambridge, Inter-American Development Bank, UCL Gorman Conf., Kiel Institute for the World Economy, Geneva Trade and Development Workshop, ERWIT, CEPR New ITRE Member Series, LMU Munich International Economics Retreat, NBER SI Development Economics, Paris Trade Sem. (PSE/ Sciences Po/ INRAE), Aix-Marseille School of Economics, UAB, IPA-Columbia SIPA “Entrepreneurship and Private Sector Development” Conf., LSE Applications Sem., IFS-UCL-LSE/STICERD Development Economics Workshop, Trade Policy Research Forum, EconCR Conf.

2021 [*Spring term: maternity leave #1*] Structural Transformation and Economic Growth (STEG) Annual Conf., University of Virginia, Munich International Economics Sem., Boston College, “The Visible Hand” Podcast, “Firm-to-Firm Trade and International Production Networks” (hosted by GEP Nottingham and CEPR), NBER SI International Trade & Investment, IESR Workshop on “Supply Chain and Buyer-Seller Networks in Developing Countries”, Richmond Fed, US Census Bureau’s Center for Economic Studies, “Women in International Economics” Second Annual Conf., CEPR “Women in Economics – Advancing Research in Economics”, São Paulo School of Economics FGV, Toronto Economics, Oxford Applied Micro Sem., BCCR, Columbia International Trade and Spatial Economics Sem., EBRD, U of Oslo

2020 Yale Growth Center “Trade and Development” Conf., West Coast Trade Workshop, China Star Tour (hosted by ShanghaiTech University and Fudan University), Penn State

Trade & Development Sem., MIT/Harvard Development/Trade Sem., Princeton IES Sem., Wilfrid Laurier University, Ronald W. Jones Mini-Conf. in International Trade and Macroeconomics + Virtual International Trade and Macro Sem., 5th Zurich Conf. on Public Finance in Developing Countries, Workshop on International Economic Networks (WIEN)
Recruiting Seminars: Bocconi, NY Federal Reserve, Harvard Business School, Duke, LSE, World Bank DECRG, Brown, Harvard, Northwestern Kellogg, Chicago Booth, Georgetown McDonough, MIT Sloan, Notre Dame

2019 UC Berkeley, LSE. **2018** NBER “Firms, Networks, and Trade” Conf., INCAE Business School, National Bank of Romania, UC Berkeley, IGC and Stanford Center on Global Poverty and Development “Firms, Trade and Development” Conf.. **2017** UC Berkeley. **2016** UC Berkeley, UEA Annual Meeting. **2015** UC Berkeley. **2014** CEMFI, Columbia

Teaching	<p>MIT 14.772 PhD “Development Economics: Macroeconomic Issues” 2024 14.76/14.760 UG/MSc. “Firms, Markets, Trade and Growth” 2024</p> <p>London School of Economics EC338 Undergraduate International Trade 2023- EC3016 Course Convenor, International Economics, EMFSS UoL programme 2023- EC351 Summer School International Economics 2023 EC315 Undergraduate International Economics 2022, 2023 EC532 MRes/PhD International Economics 2022-</p> <p>UC Berkeley C181 UG International Trade 2016-2018</p>
Guest Lectures	<p>STEG-PEDL Course on “Private Enterprises, Productivity, and Economic Growth” Session on “International Trade, MNCs and GVCs” 2026</p> <p>Guest Lectures in PhD Courses ASE Romania. Guest lecture on “Industrial Policy” 2025 Chicago, Yale, Harvard. Guest lectures on “Trade and Development” 2021, 2023, 2024 LSE Master Lecture on Industrial Policy (w/ David Atkin & Dave Donaldson) 2023 CES/LMU Mini-Course “Firms, Trade, and Development” 2022</p>
Conference Organization	<p>2025 LSE Environment Camp 2025 STEG (Structural Transformation and Economic Growth) Annual Conference 2024 + 2023 IGC/EGC(Yale) Conference on “Firms, Trade and Development” 2023 LSE Environment Week 2023 5th GEP-CEPR Summer Trade Workshop 2021 15th North American Meeting of the UEA 2020 BREAD/CEPR/STICERD/TCD Conference on Development Economics</p>
Discussions	<p>2025 CEP/Warwick Junior Trade Workshop: “The Labor Market Effects of Multinational Entry” (Marra) 2024 NEUDC: “Residential Patterns and Local Public Goods in Urban Brazil” (Harari) 2024 NBER Economic Growth Summer Institute: “R&D Subsidy and Import Substitution: Growing in the Shadow of Protection” (De Souza and Garber) 2024 NBER International Trade and Investment Summer Institute: “Multinational Networks and Trade Participation” (Conconi, Leone, Magerman, and Thomas) 2023 CEP/Warwick Junior Trade Workshop: “The Effects of Road Disruptions on Trade Relationships: Evidence from Colombian Flower Exporters” (Martinez) 2023 Princeton IES Summer Trade Workshop: “Understanding Migration Responses to Local Shocks” (Borusyak, Dix-Carneiro and Kovak) 2023 EBRD/CEPR Research Symposium “The Geopolitics of Trade”: “Supply Chain Resilience: Evidence from Indian Firms” (Khanna, Morales, and Pandalai-Nayar) 2023 Discussion on Ricardo Hausmann’s “Export-Led Growth” at the “London Consensus” Conference</p>

2022 Yale Cowles Trade Conference: “FDI Inflows and Domestic Firms: Adjustments to New Export Opportunities” (McCaig, Pavcnik and Wong)
2021 18th Annual Conference of the Euro-Latin Network on Integration and Trade (ELSNIT): “The U.S. Multinational Advantage during the 2008-2009 Financial Crisis: The Role of Services Trade” (Kamal and Kroff)
2016 UEA Annual Meeting: “Measuring Congestion in a Highly Congested City: Bogota” (Akbar and Duranton)

Referee Service	<i>American Economic Review, American Economic Review: Insights, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Econometrica, Economic Journal, Economic Letters, Economica, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Literature, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of International Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Public Economics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies</i>	
Predoc Placement	2024 Valerie Umaña Quesada (Geneva/IHEID, Master in International Economics), Vincenzo Trunfio (UBC/VSE, MA in Economics) 2023 Jose Ignacio Gonzalez Rojas (LSE, MRes/PhD in Economics and Management), Alonso Venegas Cantillano (PSE, M1 Economics) 2022 Brayan Segura (LSE, MRes/PhD in Economics), Andre Araya (TSE, MSc.) 2021 Marco Badilla (UC Berkeley, PhD in Economics), Stwarth Piedra (CEMFI, MSc.)	
Other Service Work	2025 Evaluator for World Bank + European Commission EU-RCT Call 2022 Evaluator for STEG Small Research Grants and PhD Research Grants	
Predoc Research Assistance	CEMFI RA to Diego Puga for the paper “International Trade and Institutional Change: Medieval Venice’s Response to Globalization” (with Daniel Treffer)	Madrid, ES 2013
	CEMFI RA to Samuel Bentolila for the paper “The Impact of Local Political Parties on Housing Prices” (with Manuel Arellano)	Madrid, ES 2013
Other Past Employment	SAIPEM Energy Junior Engineer on Arzew Liquefied Natural Gas Export Terminal Bouygues International Assistant Manager on Offshore Concrete Structures	Paris, FR 2009 Tangier, MA 2008
Languages	Native: Romanian. Fluent: English, French, Spanish. Beginner: Portuguese	
Personal	Romanian citizenship, UK ILR Married, two children (born 2021 and 2025)	

Last updated: April 2026