

Diana Van Patten

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Fields: International Trade, Macroeconomic Development

Academic Appointments

Yale University

Assistant Professor of Economics, School of Management, 2021–

Princeton University

IES Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Economics, 2020–2021

Professional Affiliations

Journal of International Economics

Associate Editor, 2023–

National Bureau of Economic Research

Faculty Research Fellow, International Trade and Investment Program, 2022–

Yale University

Faculty Affiliate, Cowles Foundation and Economic Growth Center, 2021–

Education

University of California, Los Angeles

Ph.D. in Economics, 2014–2020

M.A. in Economics, 2014–2015

Universidad de Costa Rica

B.Sc. in Economics (honors), 2009–2013

Publications

International Trade

“How New Products Enter Markets: Social Networks, Consumer Imports, and Retailer Learning”
with D. Argente and E. Méndez.

Quarterly Journal of Economics, *accepted*.

“Voting on a Trade Agreement: Firm Networks and Attitudes Toward Openness” with E. Méndez.

Review of Economic Studies, *lead article*, 2025.

“Multinationals, Monopsony, and Local Development: Evidence from United Fruit Company” with E. Méndez.
Econometrica, 2022.

Macro-Development

“Strategic Complementarities in a Dynamic Model of Technology Adoption”
with Alvarez, Argente, Lippi, and Méndez.

American Economic Review, *conditionally accepted*.

“Drivers of Digital Payment Adoption: Lessons from Brazil, Costa Rica, and Mexico ”
with Alvarez, Gonzalez-Alvarez, and Méndez.

IMF Economic Review, *accepted*.

“Are Cryptocurrencies Currencies? Bitcoin as Legal Tender in El Salvador”
with F. Alvarez and D. Argente

Science, *research article*, 2023

“The Dismantling of Capital Controls After Bretton Woods and Latin American Productivity.”
American Economic Association, Papers & Proceedings, 2022

Working Papers

“De Minimis as a Constraint on Local Retail Market Power” with D.Argente and E. Méndez.

“Payment-Chain Crises” with S. Bigio and E. Méndez.

“The International Consequences of Bretton Woods: Capital Controls and the Value of Geopolitical Stability”
with Ohanian, Restrepo-Echavarria and Wright. *International Economic Review*, revise and resubmit

Work in Progress

“The Legacy of Banana Culture: How Multinational Exposure Reshapes Local Identity” w/Méndez

“Detour Ahead: Market Frictions and Path Dependence in Transport Networks” with M. Santamaría

Visiting Positions

Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, *Visiting Scholar*, April 2025

Harvard University, Academy for International and Area Studies, *Academy Scholar*, Fall 2023

Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance, *Visiting Scholar*, June 2022

Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, OIGI, *Visiting Scholar*, Summer 2020

Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Research Department, *Visiting Scholar*, Summer 2019

Dartmouth College, Department of Economics, *International Economics Fellow*, Winter 2019

Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, *AEA Research Fellow*, July–September 2018

Federal Reserve Bank of Saint Louis, Research Department, *Visiting Scholar*, June 2018

Professional Activities

Conferences and Seminar Presentations

- 2026 NBER Summer Institute (ITI), Stanford University, UC Berkeley, Kuznets Conference at Yale University, STEG Annual Conference in Nairobi, Society of Economic Dynamics, Princeton IES Summer Conference, UCLA, University of Toronto, University of Pennsylvania
- 2025 [maternity leave #2] Brown University, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Society of Economic Dynamics, Boston College, Cowles Macro Summer Conference
- 2024 [maternity leave #1] NBER Summer Institute (ITI), Yale SOM, Duke University’s Jamboree, Boston University, Kiel Institute’s Geoeconomics Conference, University of British Columbia, Society of Economic Dynamics Winter Meeting
- 2023 NBER Winter Meeting (EFG), ASSA Annual Meetings, Harvard Business School, Princeton University, Yale University, Yale SOM, Society for Economic Dynamics, Princeton IES Summer Workshop, Junior Spatial Economics Conference, Atlanta Fed’s Firm Dynamics and the Macroeconomy Conference, Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, Stanford University
- 2022 NBER Summer Institute (ITI and EFEG), London School of Economics, UC Berkeley Haas, Columbia, University of British Columbia, Rome Macro Junior Conference (*Pizzanomics*), Northwestern University, Yale University, Society for Economic Dynamics, Yale SOM, CEMFI, University of Minnesota, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Workshop on International Economic Networks, UCLA, BSE Summer Forum, Pennsylvania State University, International Monetary Fund, EIEF, Harvard/MIT Workshop (Trade), ASSA Annual Meetings,

- University of Chicago, Princeton University, UC San Diego, University of Toronto, New York University, Duke University, Central Bank of Costa Rica
- 2021 Princeton University, UC Berkeley, UC Berkeley ARE, University of Southern California, Harvard University (Economic History), Harvard University/MIT (Development), Southern Methodist University, Yale University, UBC Sauder, University College London, The World Bank and International Monetary Fund, Society for Economic Dynamics, LACEA-LAMES, University of Notre Dame, NBER Economics and Politics of Mega-Firms, University of Melbourne, Washington State University, Arizona State University, GEP/CEPR Summer Trade Workshop, Central Bank of Costa Rica, US Census Bureau's Center for Economic Studies, Harvard University (Political Economy), Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, NBER Economics of Transportation in the 21st Century, Development Rookiefest (Northwestern)
- 2020 NBER Summer Institute (ITI), Columbia Business School, New York University, NYU Stern, Yale University, Yale SOM, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, University of Minnesota, Boston University, Duke University, Fuqua School of Business, Hoover Institute at Stanford, Quantitative Spatial Economics Workshop, XIV Foro de Investigadores de Bancos Centrales del CMCA, Latin American Network in Economic History and Political Economy, Dynamic Trade Institute's Virtual International Trade and Macro Seminar, Tuck School of Business, Dartmouth College, Pennsylvania State University, Virtual Economic History Seminar, UC San Diego, UC Berkeley, Brown University, North East Universities Development Consortium, Stanford University, Harvard Cities and Development Workshop, Workshop on International Economic Networks, Harvard University/MIT Workshop (Trade)
- 2019-18 Dartmouth College, UCLA, Workshop on Macroeconomic Dynamics, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Economic History Association Meetings (poster), Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, EEA Meetings, UCLA, University of Minnesota, Banco Central de Costa Rica

Conference Organization

Steering Committee, Remaking Global Trade Project, 2021-2025
 Program Committee, Society for Economic Dynamics Meeting, 2022-2025
 Co-organizer, RIDGE Workshop "Towards Sustained Growth," 2020-2024
 Scientific Committee, CEMLA's Meeting of the Central Bank Researchers Network, 2022
 Scientific Committee, North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, 2022
 Co-organizer, Cowles Trade Summer Conference, 2022
 Program Committee, North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, 2021
 Co-organizer, Quantitative Spatial Economics Junior Workshop, 2021
 Scientific Committee, PhD Student Workshop in Urban Economics, 2020

Referee Quarterly Journal of Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Econometrica, Review of Economic Studies, American Economic Review, Journal of International Economics, AEJ: Applied, Journal of Urban Economics, Economic Journal, Macroeconomic Dynamics, Explorations in Economic History, Review of Economics and Statistics

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

Weiss Fund Award for Research in Development Economics (\$19,375), 2026
 ISPS Survey Research Fund (\$23,250), Yale University, 2025
 Excellence Award in Global Economic Affairs from the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, *Theodor Wille and Heinrich-Diederichsen "fair trade" Fellowship*, 2024
 Dean's Office Research Grant (\$50,000), Yale SOM, 2024
 Incubation Fund Grant, Economic Growth Center (\$15,000), 2023
 Planetary Solutions Project Seed Grant (\$60,000), Yale University, 2022
 STEG Large Research Grant (£54,000), 2021
 Economics of Transportation in the 21st Century Award, NBER & Dept. Transportation (\$50,000), 2021
 Fellow, Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings, 2020-2022
 Best Student Seminar Award, Macroeconomics Workshop, UCLA, 2020

Dissertation Year Fellowship, Department of Economics, UCLA, 2019
International Economics Fellowship, Dartmouth College, 2019
Best Teaching Assistant Award, Department of Economics, UCLA, 2019
Summer Economics Fellowship, American Economic Association and NSF, 2018
Best Student Seminar Award, International Trade and Development Workshop, UCLA, 2017-2018
Teaching Assistant Fellowship, Department of Economics, UCLA, 2015-2019
Best Annual GPA of the Department of Economics, Universidad de Costa Rica, 2012
3rd highest mark, national higher educ. standardized tests, Ministry of Public Educ., Costa Rica, 2008

Other Research Experience

Central Bank of Costa Rica, Research Department, *Research Affiliate*, 2013–
The World Bank, *Short-Term Consultant*, 2018-2019

Teaching Experience

Yale University

Macroeconomic Implications of Globalization (MBA); Spring 2022-2024
International Experience: Costa Rica (MBA); Spring 2022-2026

University of California, Los Angeles

Math Camp for Economics Graduate Students; Summer 2016, Summer 2017
Principles of Macroeconomics, Summer 2017; Intermediate Microeconomics, Spring 2018
Graduate Macroeconomics, Teaching Assistant (Prof. Lee Ohanian); Fall 2016, Fall 2018
Macroeconomic Implications of Globalization, Teaching Assistant (Prof. Ariel Burstein); Spring 2017
Principles of Macro/Micro, Teaching Assistant; Fall 2017; Winter 2017, 2018; Spring 2016, 2019

Universidad de Costa Rica, *Teaching Assistant*, Spring 2011 - Spring 2013

Personal

Citizenship: Costa Rica, U.S. Permanent Resident
DOB: 03/20/1991
Married, 2 Children (2024, 2025)

Last updated: August 4th, 2026