

Research Statement

Extended research statement and papers: lissandrea.com

My research in international macroeconomics asks how external shocks are transmitted to emerging economies and why countries exposed to the same global disturbance can experience very different outcomes¹. I study these questions by combining empirical evidence with structural models, with a particular focus on uncertainty, trade and financial linkages, and emerging-market vulnerability. My empirical work draws on detailed monthly macroeconomic, financial, and bilateral trade data and uses Structural Vector Autoregressions (SVARs), Panel Vector Autoregressions (PVARs), local projections, and shift-share designs. I complement this evidence with non-linear Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium (DSGE) models to study the mechanisms underlying these responses. Together, my projects examine not only whether external shocks matter, but also which economic structures and policy choices shape their transmission.

Job Market Paper: U.S. Financial Uncertainty and Emerging-Market Vulnerability: Evidence from SVAR and Two-Country DSGE Models

When financial uncertainty rises in the United States, emerging economies often experience falling asset prices, exchange-rate movements, tighter financial conditions, and weaker output. Yet the severity of these responses differs considerably across economies. This raises the central question of my job market paper: *which structural characteristics make an emerging economy more vulnerable to U.S. financial uncertainty?* Empirical estimates can document how an economy responds to an external shock, but they cannot by themselves determine which features of the economy amplify or mitigate that response. I address this question by combining empirical evidence from Mexico with a structural two-country model that allows me to isolate the underlying transmission mechanisms.

I focus on Mexico because it is deeply integrated with the U.S. through trade, production, and financial markets while retaining important emerging-market features, including sovereign risk and sensitivity to external financing conditions. I first estimate an SVAR using monthly U.S.-Mexico data to trace the responses of equity prices, the exchange rate, trade, and output to U.S. financial uncertainty. I then develop a non-linear two-country New Keynesian DSGE model calibrated to the U.S. and Mexico. The model incorporates a second-moment U.S. financial uncertainty shock, an endogenous sovereign risk premium, nominal rigidities, international trade linkages, and investment adjustment costs. Because uncertainty operates through the second moment of the financial shock, I solve the model using a third-order perturbation approximation.

The structural model allows me to ask what the empirical estimates alone cannot answer: *what makes the same foreign uncertainty shock more costly for an emerging economy?* Counterfactual exercises show that greater reliance on imported consumption and investment goods strengthens exchange-rate pass-through and imported inflation, leading to a stronger monetary response and a deeper contraction in activity. The sensitivity of the sovereign risk premium changes how adjustment is distributed across external borrowing, exchange rates, trade, and domestic absorption, while greater price flexibility substantially reduces the output response. Monetary-policy counterfactuals reveal an additional trade-off: stronger inflation stabilization limits exchange-rate pass-through but can come at the cost of tighter financial conditions and weaker real activity. Together, the empirical

¹The literature on uncertainty shocks documents substantial effects on investment, output, employment, and financial markets (Bloom, 2009; Baker et al., 2016).

and structural results show that the consequences of external uncertainty depend not only on the shock itself, but also on the economic structure through which it is transmitted.

Working Papers

The Spillover Effects of US uncertainty in Latin America: Country-Level Evidence

Do different forms of U.S. uncertainty propagate through Latin America in the same way? I examine this question using monthly data from 1994 to 2023 for Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile. Country-specific SVARs show that both economic policy uncertainty and financial uncertainty adversely affect financial markets and real activity, but the magnitude and persistence of the responses vary across countries. Financial uncertainty generally produces larger and more persistent effects. Mexico and Colombia exhibit relatively large output responses, Argentina and Brazil show larger contractions in bilateral trade with the United States, and Chile experiences smaller output effects but a distinct inflation and interest-rate response to financial uncertainty. The results show that U.S. uncertainty is not transmitted uniformly across Latin America and that countries differ in both the size and composition of their adjustment.

Common Shocks, Unequal Responses: Shift-Share PVAR Evidence from Latin America and Asia.

Why do economies facing the same global shock respond so differently? I study this question across five Latin American and five Asian emerging economies using monthly data from 2002 to 2023. I construct country-specific exposure measures by interacting common U.S. uncertainty shocks with predetermined bilateral trade and financial weights and estimate their dynamic effects in a PVAR. This approach allows a common U.S. disturbance to generate different effective exposures according to countries' pre-existing economic linkages with the United States. The results reveal a broad contraction across emerging economies but substantial regional heterogeneity. Latin American economies experience larger exchange-rate depreciation, inflationary pressures, and monetary tightening, while Asian economies generally display greater scope for countercyclical monetary responses. These regional patterns show how differences in external exposure and domestic adjustment can produce unequal responses to a common U.S. shock.

Trade Policy Uncertainty Across Borders: Evidence from Local Projections and SVARs in the United States and China (with Ali Mahmoud).

Trade-policy uncertainty raises a different international question: does uncertainty originating in one major economy affect its trading partner in the same way that it affects the domestic economy? We examine the domestic and cross-border effects of U.S. and Chinese trade-policy uncertainty using local projections and SVARs. The results reveal substantial asymmetries in the transmission of the two shocks across output, investment, consumption, trade, financial markets, and exchange rates. In particular, uncertainty originating in one economy can generate larger or more persistent responses abroad than at home. This project extends my research agenda from financial uncertainty to policy-driven disruptions and examines how close production and trade relationships transmit uncertainty between major economies.

Who Bears Uncertainty? Heterogeneous Labor Outcomes.

Aggregate uncertainty shocks may weaken the labor market, but the costs need not be distributed equally across workers. This paper examines how economic policy and financial uncertainty affect U.S. labor-market outcomes across gender, ethnicity, and educational attainment using monthly

data from 1990 to 2023. I find larger adverse effects for Black workers and individuals with lower educational attainment. The gender response also changes across periods: men are generally more affected during recessions, while the inclusion of the COVID-19 period shifts the larger unemployment response toward women. The paper shows that the effects of aggregate uncertainty extend beyond changes in overall employment and can generate substantially different outcomes across groups of workers.

Ongoing and Future Research

Across my research, I find that common U.S. shocks generate markedly different outcomes across emerging economies, reflecting differences in trade exposure, financial frictions, sovereign risk, and policy space. Building on this finding, I plan to extend the structural framework of my job market paper beyond Mexico to economies with different trade, financial, and policy structures and use cross-country counterfactuals to identify which mechanisms generalize and which characteristics strengthen resilience. Growing up in the highly open economy of the Philippines further motivates my broader goal of understanding how developing economies can better withstand global disturbances.

A second direction studies how relatively less-open economies can broaden and diversify their external markets. Building on my U.S.-China trade policy uncertainty research, I plan to examine countries such as Argentina and identify potential trading partners based on production complementarities and comparative advantage. I am particularly interested in whether trade diversification can reduce dependence on individual external markets and strengthen resilience to foreign shocks.

I am also working with James Kemper and Murad Latifov on *The World Cup Superstar Effect: Dynamic Pricing and Information Shocks in Secondary Ticket Markets*, which studies how information surrounding Lionel Messi and the 2026 FIFA World Cup affects secondary-market ticket prices and activity.

References

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- Bloom, N. (2009). The impact of uncertainty shocks. *Econometrica*, 77(3):623–685.