

ISAMBERT LEUNGA NOUKWE

Department of Economics | University of Quebec at Montréal

+1 (514)-922-9812 | isoleunga@gmail.com | [Webpage](#) | [linkedin](#)

Placement Director: **Max Blouin**

blouin.max@uqam.ca +1 (514) 987-3000 (8375)

EDUCATION

Ph.D in Economics University of Quebec at Montréal	2017 - Present (Expected May 2023)
M.A. In Economic and Statistics Sub-Regional Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics	2011 - 2014
M.A. In Mathematics University of Yaoundé I	2010 - 2011
B.A. In Mathematics University of Yaoundé I	2007 - 2010

RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Economic, Macroeconomics, Development Economic

REFERENCES

Sophie Osotimehin
Department of Economics
University of Quebec at Montréal
osotimehin.sophie@uqam.ca
+1 (514)-987-3000 (4683)

Erhan Artuc
Development Research Group
World Bank
eartuc@worldbank.org
+1 (202) 473 5196

Wilfried Koch
Department of Economics
University of Quebec at Montréal
koch.wilfried@uqam.ca
+1 (514)-987-3000 (2568)

Alain Paquet
Department of Economics
University of Quebec at Montréal
paquet.alain@uqam.ca
+1 (514)-987-3000 (8371)

JOB MARKET PAPER

Role of international trade on Mexico's structural change

Abstract: Over the past three decades, the Mexican economy has gone through a structural change. During this period, Mexico joined the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1986 and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with the United States and Canada in 1994. This paper aims to assess the role played by these two trade agreements on Mexico's structural change and the effect of trade with an advanced economy such as the US on Mexico's structural changes. I use a multisectoral open economy model that I calibrated for the US and Mexican economies for 1970 - 2010. I found that the impact of the GATT shock is not substantive on the sectoral labor share in Mexico while NAFTA's tariff reductions decreased the labor share in agriculture by 51% (8 percentage points) and increased the labor share in industry by 24% (7 percentage points). I also find that these NAFTA effects would have been half of what they were halved if Mexico had signed this agreement with a country that was at the same stage of development. Moreover, I found that counterfactually replacing the US with a country similar to Mexico increased the labor share in agriculture by 6 percentage points on average and decreased the labor share in industry and services by 4 and 2 percentage points, respectively. Our findings suggest that in addition to tariff reduction, the stage of development of trade partners can impact the pattern of structural change in the local economy.

OTHER PAPERS

Uganda's Mobility Barriers and Structural Change *(joint with Erhan Artuc and Harun Onder)*

Abstract: In developing countries, frictions in labor markets restrict worker mobility across industries despite large wage differentials across sectors, and frictions in land markets cause under-utilization or usurpation of agricultural fields. Using a multi-sector model calibrated with Ugandan data, this paper finds that removing labor and land market frictions simultaneously would accelerate the structural change in Uganda, increasing labor mobility from the agriculture sector to manufacturing and services, and resulting in between 8.5 to 10.3 percent welfare gains. When implemented separately, removing labor market frictions would yield to 5.4. to 6.4 percent and removing labor market frictions would yield 0.8 to 2.5 percent welfare gains. These results suggest that there are strong complementarities between factor market frictions.

Endogenous growth model of Premature Deindustrialization *(joint with Wilfried Koch)*

Abstract: Many recent industrializers seem to be experiencing a lower peak in manufacturing labor share, and the peak is occurring at a much lower level of development relative to what earlier industrializers experienced, Rodrik (2015) called this phenomenon premature deindustrialization (PD). Recent studies show that heterogeneity in sectoral productivity across sectors and countries is the main driving of PD. Using a Schumpeterian growth model of structural change, we show analytically that heterogeneity in productivity affects the labor share at the peak in the industry sector and the GDP at that peak through the ratio of the gap between productivity growth rates in agriculture and industry sectors and the gap between productivity growth rates in industry and services sectors. Through the lens of our endogenous growth model, we show that heterogeneity in the labor share in the industry at its peak and the GDP at that peak can result in heterogeneity across countries in relative productivity at the initial period, in productivity of R&D activity, and in sectoral efficiency of innovation on productivity growth.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Consultant in Development Research Group - World Bank Sept 2021 - Present

TTL: Erhan Artuc - Senior Economist

Research Assistant - University of Ottawa Winter 2021

Supervisor: Roland Pongou

Research assistant - University of Quebec at Montréal Summer 2020

Supervisor: Sophie Osotimehin

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Undergraduate - Macroeconomic analysis

Lecturer

Winter 2019 and 2021, Fall 2019 and 2021

Graduate - Macroeconomic issues for companies and organizations

Teaching Assistant - Alain Paquet

Fall 2019 - Winter 2021

Undergraduate - Intermediate macroeconomics

Teaching Assistant - Wilfried Koch

Fall 2019 - Winter 2020

Undergraduate - Intermediate microeconomics

Teaching Assistant - Arnaud Dellis

Fall 2020 - Fall 2021

OTHER EXPERIENCES

Senior Statistician

Ministry of Economics, Cameroon.

June 2014 -Aug 2017

Data manager Assistant

Program of poverty alleviation, Cameroon

July 2016-August 2017

PROJECTS AND RESEARCH

Growth, trade, and transformation: Economic Memorandum for Uganda	2022
World Bank Policy report - Team member	

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Africa Meeting of the Econometric Society	June 2022
Abidjan, Virtual	

Canadian Society of Economics Conference	May 2021
Montreal, in person	

HONORS AND AWARDS

World Bank Robert McNamara Fellowships Program	2021 - 2022
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Ph.D. Scholarship of “Fonds de Recherche Société et Culture Quebec”	2014 - 2021
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Ph.D. Scholarship of Department of Economics - University of Quebec at Montreal	2017 - 2021
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Ministry of Economy of Cameroon Excellence Scholarship	2011 - 2014
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PROGRAMMING SKILLS

Matlab, R, Stata, SPSS, LATEX

LANGUAGES

French (native), English (fluent)