
Rafael Otero, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - PAN AMERICAN, Edinburg, Texas

1999 Ph.D. in Business Administration

Majors: Finance and International Business

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO, San Antonio, Texas

1991 Master of Business Administration

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - PAN AMERICAN, Edinburg, Texas

1987 Bachelor of Business Administration

TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE, Brownsville, Texas

1985 Associate of Arts

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

2013-present Lecturer

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE and TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE

2004-2013 Associate Professor

1998-2004 Assistant Professor

1997-1998 Lecturer

MBA courses taught: Business Economics, International Business, and Financial Management

BBA courses taught: Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Statistics, International Business,
International Finance, International Finance and Economics, and Managerial Finance

ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE:

Aug. 2009-Dec. 2010 Interim Dean of the School of Business, UTB-TSC

Jan. 2005-Aug. 2006 Interim Dean of the School of Business, UTB-TSC

Aug. 2004-Aug. 2009 Chair of the Business Administration Department, UTB-TSC

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ALAMO MIDDLE SCHOOL, Alamo, Texas

1992-1994 Teacher

SPRINT, Irving, Texas

1991-1992 Programmer Analyst II

BEXAR COUNTY GOVERNMENT, San Antonio, Texas

1988-1990 Programmer Analyst I

RESEARCH

PUBLISHED RESEARCH:

- “Financing Choices and the Efficiency of microenterprises in Mexico” (with Dennis Ortiz and Denise de la Rosa), *Journal of Emerging Markets*, April, 2018.
- “Use of Accounting and the Efficiency of Microenterprises in Mexico” (with Dennis Ortiz and Denise de la Rosa), *Journal of Accounting and Finance*, Vol. 17, No. 9, 85-96, December 2017.
- “Microenterprise Origins and Efficiency in Mexico” (with José Pagán and Steve Lovett), *International Journal of Business and Economics*, Vol. 12 No. 1, June 2013.
- “On the Importance of Confidence in Management in Uncertain Times” (with Steve Lovett), *The Journal of Applied Management and Entrepreneurship*, Vol. 17, No. 2, April 2012.
- “North-South Trade Liberalization and Returns to Skill in the South: The Case of Mexico” (with Gautam Hazarika); *Journal of International Trade & Economic Development*, Vol. 20, No. 4, August 2011.
- “Measuring Business Students’ Attitudes Toward Statistics” (with Yeong Chi and Pablo Rhi); *International Journal of Business Disciplines*, Vol. 21, No. 2, Winter 2010.
- “An Organizational Restructuring, Job Satisfaction and Diversity” (with Steve Lovett); *Perspectives in Business*, Vol. 6, Number 2, 29-35, Summer 2009.
- “Predicting Persistence of Hispanic Students in Their First Year of College” (with Olivia Rivas and Roberto Rivera); *Journal of Hispanic Higher Education*, 6, 163-173, 2007.
- “Foreign Trade and the Gender Earnings Differential in Urban Mexico” (with Gautam Hazarika); *Journal of Economic Integration*, 19, 353-373, 2004.
- “Price Discovery and Volatility Spillovers in Index Futures Markets: Some Evidence from Mexico” (with Maosen Zhong and Ali Darrat); *Journal of Banking and Finance*, 28, 3037-3054, 2004.
- “Effects of Labor Unions on Employment Shifts in Mexico’s Maquiladora Industry” (with Gerald Hollier); *Journal of Emerging Markets*, 9, 28-37, 2004.
- “Unions and Job Queuing in Mexico’s Maquiladoras” (with José Pagán); *Eastern Economic Journal*, 28, 393-407, 2002.
- “Foreign Trade and the Gender Earnings Differential in Urban Mexico” (with Gautam Hazarika); World Institute for Development Economics Research, United Nations University, Discussion Paper No. 125, 2002.
- “Wage Effects of Labor Unions: Evidence from Mexico’s Maquiladora Industry;” *Decision Sciences Institute Proceedings*, 36-38, 2001.

GRANTS/FUNDED RESEARCH:

- *Economic Impact of the Wind Energy Project by Apex Clean Energy, Inc. in Cameron County, Texas*. This report analyzes the economic impact of a new wind-generated power plant set to be built and operated by Apex Clean Energy, Inc. in Cameron County in 2015. June 2014.
- *Economic Impact of the Texas Clipper on South Padre Island* (with Mostafa Malki and Yeong Chi). This was a \$45,000 grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to study the economic impact that the sinking of the Texas Clipper ship will bring to the Cameron County area from new diving and angler tourism. August 2010.
- *South Padre Island Economic Indexes*. These were a series of reports funded by the South Padre Island Economic Development Corporation. January 2003-December 2008.

- *Retention of At-Risk Students*. This was a small grant from Office of Development and General Education, UTB-TSC, to study second-year persistence of at-risk students, 2002.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND OTHER RESEARCH:

- “The Efficiency of Microenterprises that Require Outside Financing in Mexico,” (with Dennis Ortiz); The International Academy of Business and Public Administration Disciplines, Dallas, Texas, April 20, 2013.
- “On the Importance of Perceptions of Opportunities for Advancement in Troubled Times,” Working Papers Series, School of Business, UTB-TSC, Brownsville, Texas, September 2010.
- “A Tale of Two Factories: The Importance of Workers’ Confidence in Management in Troubled Times,” Working Papers Series, School of Business, UTB-TSC, Brownsville, Texas, September 2010.
- *Brownsville-South Padre Island International Airport Economic Impact of New Flights* (with Mostafa Malki). This report was produced for the Director of the Brownsville Airport and presented to the Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Brownsville, 2008. The Director of the Brownsville Airport used this report to successfully bring a new commercial airline to Brownsville (American Eagle).
- “North-South Trade Liberalization and Returns to Skill in the South: The Case of Mexico” (with Gautam Hazarika); Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Discussion Paper No. 3788, October 2008, <http://ftp.iza.org/dp3788.pdf>.
- “Measuring Attitudes Toward Statistics in Business Students;” Academy of Science Meeting, Waco, Texas, March 2007.
- “Development of Labor Unions in Mexico and the Maquiladoras;” Southwestern Economics Association Conference, San Antonio, Texas, April 2003.
- “Foreign Trade and the Gender Earnings Differential in Urban Mexico” (with Gautam Hazarika); Southwestern Economics Association Conference, San Antonio, Texas, April 2003.
- “Price Discovery and Volatility Spillovers in Index Futures Markets: Some Evidence from Mexico” (with Maosen Zhong and Ali Darrat); American Financial Association, San Antonio, Texas, 2002.
- “Effects of Labor Unions on Employment Shifts in Mexico’s Maquiladora Industry” (with Gerald Hollier); International Applied Business Research Conference, Cancun, Mexico, 2001.
- “Wage Differentials by Plant Size in Mexico;” Applied Business Research Conference, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, 2000.

SERVICE

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES:

- Member, Academic Emergency Preparedness Committee, UTB, 2012-2013
- Member, Institutional Review Board, UTB-TSC, 2007-2010
- Senator, Academic Senate, UTB-TSC, 1999-2004
- Member, University Senate Welfare Committee, UTB-TSC, 2003-2004
- Member, Information Technology Strategic Planning Committee, UTB-TSC, 2003-2004
- Member, International Students Recruitment Committee, UTB-TSC, 2002

- Member, Food Service Contractor Committee, UTB-TSC, 1998-2000
- Member, Student Recruitment Task Force, UTB-TSC, 1999

SCHOOL AND DEPARTMENT COMMITTEES:

- Chair, Departmental Personnel Committee, Finance and Economics Department, 2011-2012
- Member, AACSB Assurance of Learning Committee, School of Business, 2009-Present
- Chair, AACSB Assurance of Learning Committee, School of Business, 2008-2009
- Member, AACSB Strategic Management Committee, School of Business, 2006-2008
- Chair, Curriculum Committee, Business Administration Dept., 1998-2001 and 2003-2004
- Member, AACSB Accreditation Mission Team, School of Business, 1997-2004
- Member, AACSB Curriculum Content and Evaluation, School of Business, 2002
- Member, Search Committee for Finance and Economics Faculty, Department of Business Administration, 2000-2006
- Chair, Curriculum Committee, School of Business, 1998-2000
- Administrator, Yolanda Walker Scholarship, School of Business, 1998-2000
- Member, Advisory Council for the Business Technology International Business Program, School of Business, 2000
- Member, AACSB Accreditation Students Team, School of Business, 1997-1999

OTHER UNIVERSITY SERVICE:

- Faculty Advisor in the “Vaquero Roundup,” a UTRGV event, August 22, 2018.
- Faculty Advisor in the “Vaquero Roundup,” a UTRGV event, August 25, 2017.
- Volunteered in the UTRGV “Breakfast Wrangler,” May 2, 2017.
- Assisted with Earth Fest, April 19, 2017
- Participated in the “Vaquero Roundup,” a University event, August 26, 2016.
- Faculty representative at “The Stomp,” an event to introduce faculty and staff to new students, August 30, 2016.
- Speaker and recruiter representing the School of Business at the “Feria Estudiantil 2013,” a UTB recruitment event for students from Matamoros, Mexico.
- Deans’ Council, 2009-2010, 2005-2006
- Served as moderator in the panel discussion “Obama, the Economy and You,” held for UTB-TSC students on February 18, 2009
- Contributed to the International Food Festival held by the International Students Club of UTB-TSC, 2000, 2001, 2002
- Helped two UTB-TSC current employees with their doctoral dissertations, 2001 and 2002
- Participated in the recruitment of students from Matamoros at the *Expo 2001 Capacita* held in Matamoros, November 2001
- Worked on the Program Review for the Business Administration Department majors: finance, marketing, management, and general business, 2000
- Participated in the Hispanic Heritage Month as a panelist in the discussion entitled Republican or Democrat: What Route Should Hispanics Follow? September 2000
- Participated in the recruitment of students from Matamoros at the *Expo-Orienta Tamaulipas* held in Matamoros, April 1999
- Initiated the recruitment of Matamoros high school students in 1997 on my own initiative; this activity has now been formally undertaken by UTB-TSC

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Reviewer for the *International Journal of Business and Economics*. Reviewed the article “A Comparison of Service Quality Dimensions in the Mobile Telecommunications Industry: Evidence from International Emerging Markets” in November 2018.
- Reviewer for the journal *Economic Systems Research*. Reviewed the article “Ex-Post Assessment of the Integration Effects on Employment and Income in North America (1995-2009)” in November 2018.
- Reviewer at the conference *Coloquio Internacional de Investigación Transdisciplinaria 2017* held at the graduate school of the Instituto Tecnológico de Matamoros, Mexico on October 24-26, 2017. Reviewed the following articles: “Áreas de Mejora en las MiPiMes de Matamoros” and “Factibilidad para la Creación de un Restaurante.”
- Reviewer for the *International Journal of Business and Emerging Markets*, 2012.

INSTRUCTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Attended the UTRGV training on Ponopto Basics to teach online courses, August 2019
- Attended the UTRGV training on Blackboard Intermediate, August 2019.
- Attended the UTRGV training on Blackboard Basics, August 2019.
- Attended the UTRGV training on Microsoft OneDrive, October 2015.
- Attended the UTRGV training on Microsoft SharePoint, October 2015.
- Attended the UTRGV training on Microsoft Skype for Business, October 2015.
- Attended the Distance Education Department training on the new Blackboard feature to grade papers online with a tablet, UTB, August 2013.
- Attended the Distance Education Department training on the updated features in Blackboard, UTB, August 2013.
- Learned to use the software Digital Measures to enter faculty data, September 2012.
- Attended training with the Distance Education Department to incorporate new edition material into Blackboard 9, UTB/TSC, June 2011.
- Attended workshop on Blackboard Outcomes System for assessment of student learning outcomes and administrative goals, UTB/TSC, Fall 2010.
- Attended the workshop on Tegrity Training conducted by the Distance Education Department, UTB/TSC, Fall 2009.
- Attended the workshop on Writing Assignments, Rubrics, and Assessment conducted by the English Department, UTB/TSC, Fall 2008.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Made a presentation on the Mexican economy at the 3rd Conference in Administration held at the Tecnológico Nacional de México in Matamoros, October 21, 2015.
- Interviewed by Luciana Coelho, Washington D.C. correspondent for Brazil's leading newspaper, *Folha de S. Paulo*, for an article about how some places in Texas have been reviving its industries, especially on the border region, September 28, 2012.
- Interviewed by Jenifer R. Lloyd, news reporter for the *San Antonio Express-News* newspaper, on the question of why Latino students whose parents immigrated from Latin America are less likely to take student loans as compared to the rest of students in the U.S., July 2012.
- Interviewed periodically by Sergio Sanchez for the "The Valley's Morning News" of the KURV 710 radio station since 2008 to 2010 regarding different economic issues dealing with Mexico and the Rio Grande Valley.
- Interviewed by the regional publication *Valley Business Report* on the economic expectations for the Rio Grande Valley for 2010, January 2010.
- Served as economics advisor to the mayor of the City of Brownsville, Mr. Pat Ahumada, 2007-2010.
- Served as board member of the Brownsville Community Health Center, 2007-2009 (Board President from 2008-2009)
- Gave presentation on the economic conditions of SPI and the Valley and forecasts for 2009 to the South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce, April 22, 2009
- Interviewed by the host of "Texas Matters" of National Public Radio in San Antonio regarding current events in Mexico that can have an effect in the U.S., such as the peso devaluation and the slowdown in remittances by Mexican workers in the U.S. The

- interview was broadcasted in February 2009
- Presented the report *Brownsville-South Padre Island International Airport Economic Impact of New Flight* to the Brownsville Mayor and Commissioners, 2008. This report was produced for the Director of the Brownsville Airport to study the economic effects of new flights to Brownsville, 2008. The Director of the Brownsville Airport used this report to successfully bring a new commercial airline to Brownsville (American Eagle)
 - Interviewed by Mr. Whitlock for the *Whitlock Report* aired on Channel 23 KVEO on April 12, 2008. The topic of the show was the economic impact that a bill introduced in the Texas legislature would have on the Valley. The bill would divert about a billion dollars in Medicaid administration currently coming to the Valley to outside-the-state administrators of Medicaid
 - Interviewed several times by the reporter Aaron Nelson of *The Brownsville Herald* for different newspaper articles, 2006-2008
 - Served as member of the Brownsville Independent School District District-Wide Education Improvement Council (DEIC), 2006-2008.
 - Served as President of the Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) in Stillman Middle School, 2004.
 - Served as board member of the Brownsville Tennis Center, 2004
 - Interviewed by *The Brownsville Herald* to discuss the apparent contradiction of the continuous growth in housing construction and the increasing unemployment rate in this area, October, 2003
 - Gave presentation to the Club Rotario Matamoros 84 on factors affecting the efficiency of microenterprises, November 2003
 - Participated as a judge in the Brownsville Independent School District Cluster One Science Fair, May 2003
 - Gave presentation to the Club Rotario Matamoros Industrial on the energy sector risks for the future of the Mexican Economy, October 2002
 - Invited to talk about the “Diplomado” program offered at UTB-TSC and to talk about the economy of the region at XEO radio station in Matamoros, October 2002
 - Gave presentation to the Asociación de Comerciantes Establecidos del Centro Historico de Matamoros A. C. on the Mexican balance of payments and the possible effects of the trade deficit on the economy, January 2002
 - Participated in a panel discussion at CODEM (Committee para el Desarrollo Economico de Matamoros, A. C.) on the creation of a strategic plan for Matamoros, January 2002
 - Participated in the XEEW radio newscast at noon in Matamoros discussing the Mexican economy, 2001
 - Invited to offer opinions on the Mexican and regional economies for the television newscast, Televisa Noreste, 2001-2003
 - Participated in the binational border conference on topics related to the family and other vulnerable groups held by the Sistema Nacional para el Desarrollo Integral de la Familia (DIF), March 1999
 - Contributed as an external member to the academic council of the Universidad del Noreste de Mexico in Matamoros (this University had an agreement with UTB-TSC to recruit and train Mexican nurses, 1999-2002

REFERENCES

Gautam Hazarika
Associate Professor, UTRGV
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Brownsville, Texas 78520
956-882-8953 (office); 956-350-0862 (home)
gautam.hazarika@utrgv.edu

Marvin Lovett
Professor, UTRGV
One W. University Blvd.
Brownsville, Texas 78520
956-882-7336 (office)
marvin.lovett@utrgv.edu

Ana Maria Rodriguez
Retired Vice Provost, UTPA
1201 El Recreo
Edinburg, Texas 75639
956-457-1259 (cell)
anamaria.rodriguez1@yahoo.com