

## MIGUEL MORIN

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### Education:

2014 (expected)	Ph.D.	Economics	Columbia University
2010	M.A.	Economics	Columbia University
2009	M.A.	Economics	Paris School of Economics
2008	M.A.	Statistics	ENSAE (Paris)
2007	B.A.	Economics	Ecole Polytechnique (Paris)

### Research fields:

Macroeconomics and Economic History

### Job Market paper:

“Technology Adoption and the Evolution of the Labor Market”

Abstract: This paper examines the effect of General Purpose Technologies on the labor market. It provides a theoretical contribution in the context of computers since the 1980s and an empirical contribution in the context of electricity in the 1930s. First, the paper presents a model where the adoption of computers explains both structural and cyclical changes of the US labor market in recent decades. When computers become cheap and competitive compared to workers, they diffuse more rapidly and become more important in the conventional mechanism of capital-labor substitution. The model can account for recent structural changes with this trend of automation: employment has shifted away from routine occupations and the labor share of income has declined. The model also predicts that recessions accelerate this trend—firms prefer to destroy routine jobs during a downturn, when the opportunity cost of restructuring is low. This acceleration can account for recent cyclical changes of the labor market: routine job losses are concentrated in recessions and the ensuing recoveries are jobless. To show causal evidence for the model, the second contribution is to consider the General Purpose Technology of electricity with a newly digitized plant-level dataset for the concrete industry between 1929 and 1935. Unlike computers, electricity prices vary across space depending on the power source—hydro power or coal power. Using geography as an instrument for shifts in the electricity supply curve, this paper finds that the decrease in the price of electricity caused a decrease in the labor share of income, consistent with the predictions of the model.

### Work in progress:

“Information Technologies and Slow Recoveries”

**Honors and awards:**

2010-present Doctoral fellowship, *Fundação Ciência e Tecnologia*  
2011 Wueller prize for the best dissertation proposal, Columbia University  
2011 Vickrey prize (runner-up) for the best third-year paper, Columbia University  
2010 Harriss prize for the best second-year paper, Columbia University  
2008-2009 Doctoral fellowship, Columbia University

**Presentations:**

2013 Midwest Macroeconomic Meetings (University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign),  
Instituto Superior de Economia e Gestão (Lisbon)

**Teaching Experience:**

Spring 2012 Columbia University, Intermediate Macroeconomics (evaluations on website)  
Fall 2009 Columbia University, Principles of Economics (evaluations on website)

**Teaching interests:**

Introductory/Intermediate/Advanced Macroeconomic Analysis  
Economic Growth and Technological Change  
Economic History / History of Economic Thought  
Principles of Economics

**Data sets:**

Electronic version of the Census of Manufactures for the Concrete industry, at the plant-level, for 1929, 1931, 1933, and 1935, with information on employment, wages, production, and electricity.

**Personal:**

Citizenship Portuguese and French  
Language Portuguese and French (native), English (fluent), Spanish (intermediate).

**References:**

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