

Doctoral Degree Programs Darla Moore School of Business

University of South Carolina

International Business Ph.D.

Faculty Research

Joao Albino-Pimentel (*PhD Management, HEC Paris*) My research revolves around non-market and international strategy. I am interested in how firm- and country-specific political resources and capabilities influence firms' international strategy decisions such as location of international investments, resource commitment in foreign countries and global innovation. I am also interested in how political resources are generated and create value for firms.

Elisa Alvarez-Garrido (*PhD Management, Univ. of Pennsylvania-Wharton*) My research interest is international entrepreneurship. My work combines insights from international business, entrepreneurship, and technology and innovation to study how investors contribute to the financial and innovative performance of startups across different contexts. I am particularly interested in high-technology startups, with a focus on biotechnology, and how to foster startup innovation in countries that have a less favorable environment. I also study how investors contribute to startup innovation and financial performance depending on the institutional environment. My research also explores how investors leverage their assets across countries. For instance, foreign venture capitalists are treasured for their networks of contacts back in their home country but are able to leverage those networks in their international investments only under certain conditions.

Nancy Buchan (*PhD Marketing, Univ. of Pennsylvania-Wharton*) My research combines the methodology of experimental economics with theory from psychology, sociology and political science to understand the factors that influence the development of trust and cooperation in cross-cultural relationships. Of most interest are the impact of membership in groups and networks in trust building, and the effect of globalization on individual attitudes and behaviors towards others locally, nationally and globally. To pursue this research agenda, I have conducted experiments in 14 countries. In a second research stream, along with Wendi Adair and Xiaoping Chen, I developed a scale to measure individual communication and interaction patterns and their variance within and across cultures. The scale is used by students and managers to understand their own patterns of communication and those of others to improve understanding and cooperation.

Omrane Guedhami (*PhD Finance, Laval Univ.*) My area of research is international finance, covering corporate governance, privatization, national culture, and corporate social responsibility. Specifically, I examine the determinants of post privatization performance changes, the impact of privatization on corporate governance and ownership structure, the determinants of ownership structure of newly privatized and public firms, and the role of large block holders and tax enforcement in corporate governance. My research on corporate social responsibility (CSR) focuses on the determinants and economic consequences of firms' CSR initiatives.

Tatiana Kostova (*PhD Management, Univ. of Minnesota*) My research focuses on international management, macro-organizational behavior and organization theory. More specifically, I study institutional and cultural embeddedness of multinational corporations (MNC), cross-border transfer of management practices within MNCs, knowledge management, organizational legitimacy and social capital as a source of competitive advantage in MNCs. I have also done research on organization-based self-esteem, psychological ownership, dual identification and extra-role behavior in organizations.

Chuck Kwok (*PhD International Business, Univ. of Texas-Austin*) My research concentrates on international financial management. In recent years, my primary interest has been focused on how national culture influences financial practices around the world. The core of culture is systems of values which are enduring beliefs and attitudes concerning what are personally or socially preferable codes of conduct and end-states of existence. I am interested in examining the influence of culture on financial practices at different levels. Examples at the individual level are: culture and stock market speculative strategies and culture and individual's life insurance consumption. Examples at the corporate level are: culture and capital structure; culture and debt maturity decision; and culture and corporate investment decision. Examples at the economic and financial environment level are: culture and financial systems; culture and banking corruption; and culture and financial crisis.

The IB faculty has recently published in the following outlets:

Academy of Management Journal
Academy of Management Review
Administrative Science Quarterly
American Economic Review
American Journal of Sociology
American Sociological Review
Comparative Politics
Decision Sciences
Global Strategic Journal
Harvard Business Review
Industrial and Corporate Change
Industrial Labor Relations Review
International Organization
Journal of Accounting and Economics
Journal of African Business
Journal of Banking and Finance
Journal of Business Ethics
Journal of Business Venturing
Journal of Consumer Research
Journal of Corporate Governance
Journal of Finance
Journal of Financial Economics
Journal of International Business Studies
Journal of International Management
Journal of Management
Journal of Management Studies
Journal of Marketing
Organization Science
Organization Studies
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences
Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance
Review of International Political Economy
Socio-Economic Review
Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal
Strategic Management Journal



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Sali Li (*PhD International Business, Univ. of Utah*) My primary research interests cover multinational strategy from a demand side perspective and international entrepreneurship with particular focus on digital business and emerging economies. Recently, I have been utilizing big data to study the internationalization and innovation patterns of digital startups, as well as to assess digital differences between countries.

Stanislav Markus (*PhD Political Science, Harvard University*) I work on political risk, non-market strategy and the political economy of development in the post-Soviet space and in emerging markets more broadly. I explore the interactions between business and state, especially with respect to property rights, corporate governance, stakeholder engagement, lobbying, corruption, expropriation, regulatory enforcement, party finance and institution building. One of my current projects analyzes an original data set of super-rich Ukrainian tycoons and their political strategies aimed at maximizing corporate wealth.

Gerald McDermott (*PhD Political Science, MIT*) My current research focuses on issues of innovation, risk, and institutional change in emerging market countries. My earlier work examined the impact of industrial networks on the economic governance institutions in transition countries. I have spent ten years examining the creation of innovation clusters in manufacturing and agriculture in South America. I also study the impact of transnational regulatory integration on developing countries. In addition to my position at DMSB, I am also a Senior Research Fellow at IAE Business School in Argentina.

Wolfgang Messner (*PhD Economics, Univ. of Kassel*) I am Clinical Associate Professor at the Darla Moore School of Business. I specialize in international business, particularly on issues of marketing to consumers on the Indian subcontinent. Most recently, I have worked with a large data set of airline reviews to unearth and expound cultural differences. My second stream of research activities are focused on intercultural team management, where I examine culturally driven aspects of employee commitment and effectiveness. I also look at the practicalities of measuring, confining, and distinguishing cultures with dimensions. In my earlier work, I researched organizational and people issues in the context of services offshoring, and strategies for customer service excellence.

Michael Murphree (*PhD International Affairs, Georgia Tech*) My research interests include globalization, innovation in emerging economies, technology standards and intellectual property rights. My most recent research looks at the upgrading and performance of traditional economy firms in China as they face declining overseas demand and rapidly rising domestic costs. Using qualitative and mixed method research, I aim to understand how these firms sustain competitive advantage and the types of strategic responses to external pressures they adopt. A new project aims to look at the long term impacts of strategic decisions regarding outsourcing and offshoring on the competitiveness of SME manufacturers, using a comparative study of Taiwanese manufacturing firms.

Lite Nartey (*PhD Management, Univ. of Pennsylvania-Wharton*) My research explores the relationships, contingencies and dynamics among multinational firms, governments and civil society actors and the implications of these dynamics on both firm performance and societal value. I am specifically interested in multinational firms within the extractive and other industries who are forced to interact with diverse and often powerful stakeholders including NGOs, governments, multilateral agencies, legal authorities, conservationists, development experts and members of the community in which their operations are located. In my current work, I draw from network theory to outline innovative strategies firms can use to improve relations with stakeholders and thus build stakeholder support.

Marc van Essen (*PhD Finance, Erasmus University*) My research interests lie at the intersection of institutions, corporate governance and firm strategy. Currently, my main areas of research include comparative corporate governance and firm ownership. My work can be grouped in two streams based on the following primary research questions: 1) How do institutions impact the prevalence and effectiveness of corporate governance practices and firm strategies across countries around the world? and 2) How does ownership identity affect firm-level strategic choices?

Andrew Spicer (*PhD Management, Univ. of Pennsylvania-Wharton*) My research agenda focuses on the intersection of business and society in a global economy. I am particularly interested in firm responses to large-scale societal issues, such as climate change, poverty and security. Recent projects include the study of the global spread of microfinance around the world; the productivity consequences of informal entrepreneurial activity across the developing world; the causes and consequences of Walmart's environmental strategy; the institutional conditions of ethical decision-making across national contexts; and the impact of terrorism on firm boundaries and strategies. My research examines privatization policies and outcomes in post-communist countries, the effects of national context and identity on managers' ethical evaluations and behaviors, the processes that lead to the spread of corrupt business practices across regions and companies, and the role of institutional context in shaping business models designed to combat poverty around the world. I have also written a series of teaching cases about the formulation and implementation of Wal-Mart's sustainability strategy.

Chris Yenkey (*PhD Sociology, Cornell University*) My research extends sociological theories of social diversity, segregation and distrust into the analysis of market development, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. In particular, I am interested in how social conflict and misconduct (ranging from fraud to corruption) affect market participation. This line of work is exemplified by my work on the effects of tribalism and corruption on investor participation in Kenya's frontier stock market, the Nairobi Securities Exchange. I have a new project studying how global capital reacts to episodes of corruption and political violence across Africa. I invest considerable time and effort into collecting rich data in hard to measure places and using existing data in creative ways that support new perspectives on persistent problems.

