

Javier Díaz-Giménez: An Independent Economist

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CV

I am a Spanish economist who is at the same time honest, independent, radical, and disruptive. I combine a thorough knowledge of economic theory with a passion for economic current events, macroeconomic trends, disruptive technologies, pensions, and communication. In my classes, in the media, and in my opinions I actively attempt to think differently and find the signals in the midst of all the noise. You can find my bio [here](#), my short cv [here](#), and an old version of my long cv [here](#).

Research

There are three families of academic economists: mathematicians, statisticians, and programmers. I am a programmer. In my research I use numerical methods to solve large systems of stochastic difference equations. These systems of equations are at the heart of the algorithms that simulate the behavior of artificial economies that can be used to understand the consequences of policy reforms in real economies. I have used these methods to simulate the consequences of changes in monetary policy, fiscal policy, and pension system reforms.

I have published my research in some of the leading academic economics journals such as the *Journal of Political Economy*, the *Journal of Monetary Economics*, and the *International Economic Review*. I have coauthored two articles with Edward C. Prescott who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2004.

Current Interests

I am interested in the current events that affect the global economy and in global macroeconomic trends. Geographically, I follow with special interest the Global, European, and the Spanish economies. As far as sectors are concerned, I am specially interested in the financial sector. My two favorite topics in finance are financial disruption and pension reform.

You can find short videos on my ideas on technological disruption [here](#), on longevity [here](#), and on hedging risks [here](#).

Current Talks

I am a frequent lecturer for senior executive audiences and an invited keynote speaker in industry events. Currently, I give talks on the following topics:

- The global economy: macroeconomic trends and fluctuations.
- The world in 2030: technology, innovation, and disruption.
- The ABC of longevity, pensions, and savings for retirement.
- Reinventing Spanish pensions.
- Bitcoin: trick, treat, and disruption.

Advising the Finance Industry

I have served in the accounting committee of the board of directors of Martinsa-Fadesa a large construction company which was dissolved in 2015. I have also served in the Strategy Committee of Consulnor, a wealth management firm that was bought by Banca March in 2013. I have consulted for FEDEA, an economic think tank and for Orienta Capital, a wealth manager. Between 2015 and 2018, I was a partner of Zechman Partners, a partnership that specialized in M&As, capital markets, and corporate finance.

In the public sector I was offered a senior consultant position at the Economic Office of the President in 2004, which I finally turned down, and I have worked as a consultant at the Research Department of the Ministry of Industry.

Advocating for Pension System Reform

For more than twenty years now I have warned academic and industry audiences and the general public about the unsustainability of the Spanish public pension system and of the limitations of Spanish private pensions. Unfortunately, they have refused to listen. First, in the 2000s, everyone involved —politicians across the spectrum, the trade unions, and the finance and insurance sector— denied the existence of the sustainability problem. Then, in the 2010s, they claimed that the financial difficulties of the system were transitory. Finally, in the 2020s they are finally acknowledging the current system is unsustainable, but are trying to fix it with parametric reforms. During all this time I have argued steadfastly for a radical reform.

Between 2013 and 2015, I was a member of the Experts' Forum of the BBVA Pensions Institute. In May of 2020, I gave expert opinion on pensions at Spanish Reconstruction Commission, a special committee of the Spanish Parliament. Most of my research on pensions can be found [here](#). An elevator pitch for savings for retirement can be found [here](#), and a recent video in which I discuss pensions and savings for retirement can be found [here](#). This video is in Spanish.

Macroeconomics Textbooks

I have published two macroeconomics textbooks: *Macroeconomía: Primeros conceptos* and *Macroeconomía Para Casi Todos*. The second one has been translated into English as *Macroeconomics for Nearly Everyone*.

You can find *Macroeconomía: Primeros conceptos* [here](#) and [here](#). You can find *Macroeconomía Para Casi Todos* and *Macroeconomics for Nearly Everyone* [here](#).

Presence in the Media

I am very active both in Spanish and in international media. I give expert opinion regularly on radio and TV shows, and for newspaper stories. Currently, I make frequent appearances in La Sexta, a TV network, and in COPE, a radio network, and, less frequently in RNE, La SER, CNN, the BBC, Bloomberg, The Economist, and the Financial Times. I am probably the only Spanish commentator who is independent enough to appear in the morning magazine of La Sexta, a left-wing TV network, and in the evenings in La COPE, a conservative radio network.

Podcast

I record a weekly, half-an-hour podcast in Spanish with Miguel Ors Villarejo, a journalist. Our producer is Pedro Artiles. The podcast is called *El Gris Importa* (Grey Matters). In it we use economic theory to discuss current economic events. On May 23, 2022 we had recorded 73 episodes. We upload *El Gris Importa* to the main podcast channels including YouTube and Spotify. The podcast's YouTube channel is [here](#).

Social Activities

In December 2009, I visited Rimkieta, one of the poorest neighborhoods of Ouagadougou, the capital city of Burkina Faso, one of the poorest countries in the world, with Juan Carlos Vázquez-Dodero one of the founders of the Friends of Rimkieta Foundation (FAR). Like economics, for me the FAR and its involvement with Rimkieta, was love at first sight. I have collaborated actively with them since then, and I am currently a patron and the Foundation's representative in Madrid. The FAR's webpage is [here](#).

I have also collaborated with *Greenpeace* since June 11, 1986 and with *Doctors Without Borders* since July 1, 1994.

Networks

I have reputed personal and professional networks. I have more than 5,000 followers in LinkedIn and more than 3,500 in Twitter plus hundreds of Spanish and international undergraduate, mba, and phd students, and executives who have participated in the economics classes that I have taught during the last 36 years. I also have an extended network of professional and of personal contacts both in academics and in business. I am specially well known in the finance sector and in all matters related to doing business in the virtual world, pensions, and savings for retirement.