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UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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Education

The University of Chicago, 2012 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: "Essays in International Trade"
Expected Completion Date: June 2018

References:

Professor Ralph Ossa
University of Zurich
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Professor Jonathan Dingel
Booth School of Business
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Professor Felix Tintelnot
University of Chicago
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Professor Chang-Tai Hsieh
Booth School of Business
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Trinity College, 2008 to 2012
B.S. in Mathematics and Economics (*Optimae et Optimi*)

Teaching and Research Fields

Primary fields: International Trade
Secondary fields: Development Economics, Political Economy

Research Experience and Other Employment

University of Chicago, research assistant for Jonathan Dingel	2015-2016
University of Chicago, research assistant for Raaj Sah	2014-2016
University of Chicago, research assistant for Ralph Ossa	2014-2016
Trinity College, research assistant for James Wen	2011

Teaching Experience (University of Chicago)

The Wealth of Nations, teaching assistant for Chang-Tai Hsieh	2015 - 2017
Macroeconomics I, guest lecturer and teaching assistant for Lloyd Han	2016
Intro Macroeconomics, teaching assistant for Allen Sanderson	2015
Finance, teaching assistant for Raaj Sah	2014 - 2016
Public Policy Analysis, teaching assistant for Jim Leitzel	2014
Economics & Management, teaching assistant for Raaj Sah	2014
Applied Regression Analysis, teaching assistant for Dacheng Xiu	2014

Conferences and Presentations

Forum on Development and Governance (Qingdao, 2017), Biennial Conference of China Development Studies (Shanghai, 2017), Midwest International Trade Conference (Purdue, 2016), International Trade Working Group (U Chicago, 2015-2017)

Honors, Scholarships and Fellowships

Henry and Marcelle Morgenthau Fellowship, University of Chicago	2017
Social Science Fellowship, University of Chicago	2014-2017
Russell Fellowship, Trinity College	2013-2015
Sherwin Rosen Award, University of Chicago	2013-2014
Tanaka Memorial Foundation Research Grant	2010

Pre-Ph.D. Publications

[“Aggregate consumption and debt accumulation: an empirical examination of US household behavior”](#) *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, 39(1), 93-112, 2015. (with *Yun K. Kim*, and *Mark Setterfield*)

[“A theory of aggregate consumption”](#) , *European Journal of Economics and Economic Policies: Intervention*, , Edward Elgar, vol. 11(1), pages 31-49, 2014. (with *Yun K. Kim*, and *Mark Setterfield*)

Research Papers

[“Regulatory Protection and the Role of International Cooperation”](#) (Job Market Paper)

Domestic regulations that impede international trade have become a central concern in contemporary trade negotiations. In this paper, I develop a general-equilibrium framework to analyze the welfare consequences of product regulations and their international harmonization. In my model, raising product standards reduces a negative externality associated with consumption but also increases the marginal and fixed costs of production. When a country sets its product standards non-cooperatively, the effects of standards on other countries’ wages and number of firms are not internalized, giving rise to an international inefficiency. I show that the World Trade Organization’s non-discrimination principle of national treatment cannot lead to an efficient equilibrium when standards affect the fixed cost of production. I then conduct a quantitative exercise and find that current international cooperation on product standards is still far from complete: welfare losses from abandoning national treatment average 1.44 percent, whereas potential welfare gains from efficient multilateral cooperation average 12.59 percent.

[“Sustainable Cooperation in International Trade: A Quantitative Analysis”](#) (revise and resubmit, *Journal of International Economics*)

How does the presence of multilateral institutions affect the sustainability of trade policy cooperation? Do free trade agreements make multilateral cooperation less sustainable? Will countries be more likely to deviate from negotiated tariffs when more trade liberalization realizes in the future? All these questions have been studied in theory literature using models that feature repeated games, but have yet to be quantitatively analyzed. In this paper, I propose a methodology to quantitatively characterize countries' equilibrium strategies on tariffs in a widely used repeated game framework. I then apply this methodology to address these questions from a quantitative perspective. The numerical results computed from a reasonably comprehensive general equilibrium trade model corroborate previous analysis derived theoretically from simpler trade models. However, only free trade agreements appear to influence the sustainability of trade policy cooperation with quantitative significance.

[“Mandarins Make Markets: Leadership Rotation and Inter-Provincial Trade in China”](#)
(with *Junyan Jiang* and *Ang Min*)

Political leaders are believed to have substantial influence on economic activities, but the mechanism of such influence is still understudied. This paper examines how political leaders affect the flow of trade between Chinese provinces by exploiting variations created by the regular rotation of senior cadres across provinces. Using several novel datasets that capture the intensity of inter-provincial economic activities, we find that the movement of a provincial secretary, the de facto leader of a province, induces a significant increase in trade volumes between the origin and destination provinces. This effect is especially salient on trade flows from the destination to the origin of the rotation. This finding is corroborated by empirical analysis using various data sources. We then compare the two plausible mechanisms that can explain this pattern—rent seeking and business brokerage—and find evidence in support of the latter.

[“Consumer Social Concern and Spillover of National Donation on Brands' Country-of-origin Effect”](#) (with *Xiaosong Dong* and *Yubo Chen*)

In this paper we use a newly available city-level data set to estimate demand for passenger cars in China. In addition to including geographical variations of car demand, we also use the unique natural experiment setting of Sichuan Earthquake to study the impact of consumer social concern on their purchase behavior and brand country-of-origin effect. Regression results indicate that the philanthropic actions of automakers' home countries do lead to a country-of-origin effect and have a positive spillover on brand image. Moreover, the magnitude of this spillover effect is related to each city's charity behavior.

Works in Progress

“Regulatory Protection and Product Likeness”

Personal Information

Born September 3rd, 1987. Citizenship: China (F1 Visa)

Languages: English (fluent), Mandarin (native)