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GENDER: M

CITIZENSHIP: Chinese

PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES:

Mres in Economics, London School of Economics, UK	2012-2014
M.S. in Economics, Tsinghua University, China	2010-2012
B.S. in Mathematics and Physics, Tsinghua University, China	2006-2010

DOCTORAL STUDIES: London School of Economics

DATES: 2014 - present

THESIS TITLE: "Three Essays on Firms and International Trade"

EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE: July 2018

THESIS ADVISOR AND REFERENCES:

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DESIRED TEACHING AND RESEARCH:

Primary Fields: International Trade

Secondary Fields: Economic Development and Economic History

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

2015-2017, Course Manager of EC102, LSE

2013-2015, LSE Class Teacher EC102

2015 and 2016, LSE Summer School Teacher EC341 and EC102

2011-2012, Tsinghua SEM Teaching Assistant

RELEVANT POSITIONS HELD:

2015-2017, LSE Teaching Fellow in Economics

2013-2015, LSE Class Teacher

2013, 2015-2017, Research Assistant, Centre for Economic Performance, LSE

2014 summer, Research Assistant, LSE Asia Research Centre

2011-2012, Teaching Assistant, Tsinghua University

LANGUAGES:

Basic Spoken
Cantonese

Fluent Spoken
English; Mandarin; Teochew

Fluent Written
English; Chinese

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

2017-2018, LSE Economics Departmental Awards

2015-2017, LSE Teaching Fellowship

2015, Nominee for LSE Teaching Excellence Awards

2012-2016, PhD Partnership in Economics, LSE

2012, Outstanding Graduate Award, Tsinghua University

2012, Outstanding Master Thesis Award, Tsinghua Graduate School

2011, Chiang Chen Scholarship, Tsinghua University

2010, Graduate Excellence Award, Tsinghua University

2010, Chi-Sun YEH Prize for excellence in undergraduate study of physics

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Referee: Economic Inquiry, Economica, Economics Letters, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Regional Science (3), Review of International Economics

Presentations: 2017: Oxford, CEP Annual Conference, AMES, China Summer Institute, ETSG, UCLouvain, PKU NSE (planned), RES PhD meeting (planned), EWMES (planned); 2015: GEP Postgraduate conference; IEA 2014; Royal Economics Society Annual Conference 2013; China Summer Institute 2012

COMPLETED PAPERS:

Job Market Paper:

"Germs, Roads and Trade: Theory and Evidence on the Value of Diversification in Global Sourcing".

Abstract: This paper studies the value of diversification in global sourcing in improving firms' resilience to supply chain disruptions. I build a model in which firms select into importing from countries and via customs with different efficiencies, taking into account domestic and international trade costs. The model predicts that high productivity firms are more geographically diversified in sourcing under input complementarity, which makes them more resilient to adverse shocks on the supply chain than low productivity firms. Reductions in trade costs induce firms to further diversify their sourcing strategies. I then exploit the 2003 SARS epidemic as a natural experiment to examine the resilience of Chinese manufacturing importers. Firm imports fell by 7.9% on average when the trade route was hit by SARS, but as much as 52% for firms without any diversification. The disruptions led to smaller increases in marginal cost for firms with more trade routes for imports. The epidemic reduced total Chinese manufacturing outputs by about 0.7% at its peak. Connectivity to roads increased firms' resilience to the epidemic by facilitating input diversification.

Other Paper:

"Structural Adjustments and International Trade: Theory and Evidence from China". (with Jiandong Ju and Vivian Yue). Under review.

Abstract: This paper studies how changes in factor endowment, technology, and trade costs jointly determine the structural adjustments, which are defined as changes in distributions of production and exports. We document the structural adjustments in Chinese manufacturing firms from 1999 to 2007 and find that production became more capital-intensive while exports did not. We structurally estimate a Ricardian and Heckscher-Ohlin model with heterogeneous firms to explain this seemingly puzzling pattern. Counterfactual simulations show that capital deepening made Chinese production more capital-intensive, but technology changes that biased toward the labor-intensive sectors and trade liberalizations provided a counterbalancing force.

Publication:

"The costs and benefits of leaving the EU: trade effects", *Economic Policy*, Volume 32, Issue 92, 1 October 2017, Pages 651–705. (with S. Dhingra, G. Ottaviano, J. Pessoa, T. Sampson and J. van Reenen.)

Abstract: This paper estimates the welfare effects of Brexit, focusing on trade and fiscal transfers. We use a standard quantitative general equilibrium trade model with many countries and sectors and trade in intermediates, as in Costinot and Rodríguez-Clare (2014). We simulate a range of counterfactuals reflecting alternative options for EU-UK relations following Brexit. Welfare losses for the average UK household are 1.3% if the UK remains in the EU's Single Market like Norway (a "soft Brexit"). Losses rise to 2.7% if the UK trades with the EU under World Trade Organization rules (a "hard Brexit"). A reduced form approach that captures the dynamic effects of Brexit on productivity more than triples these losses and implies a decline in average income per capita of between 6.3% and 9.4%, partly via falls in foreign investment. These negative effects are widely shared across the entire income distribution and are unlikely to be offset from new trade deals.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:

"Comparative Advantage, Competition, and Firm Heterogeneity". (with Gianmarco Ottaviano). Mimeo. 2017.

Abstract: Using matched Chinese firm and customs data, we find that export participation, firms' product scope and product mix, and firm mix within industry all varies systematically with firms' labor intensity. This

is rationalized by a model in which firms face tougher competition in industries of comparative disadvantage. Such competition effect induces reallocation within and across firms and generates endogenous Ricardian comparative advantage which dampens ex ante comparative advantage. We provide sufficient statistics to measure and decompose comparative advantage. We find that the dampening mechanism is quantitatively important in shaping comparative advantage for a calibrated Chinese economy.

“Remittances from Southeast Asia to China in the 20th Century, Evidence from 70,000 Letters”, (with Phacharaphorn Phanomvan).

Abstract: Traditional Chinese remittance firms (Qiaopiju) dominated the network of remittances between China and Southeast Asia since late 19th century for more than 100 years. This paper assembles a newly digitized dataset of more than 70,000 remittance letters (Qiaopi) from Chinese migrants in Southeast Asia through the 20th century. Preliminary analysis reveals three major waves of remittances and the importance of Hong Kong as a financial gateway for remittances to China. At the micro level, we provide evidence highlighting the role of kinship in shaping the decision of remitters.

“On the Match Characteristics of International Trading Partners”. (with Frank Pisch)

We use international trade data at the transaction level to link French firms and their Chinese trading partners. Complementing this information by census and survey data on both sides, we characterize the matching function along various dimensions.

“Face-to-face contact and international trade: evidence from travel bans during the SARS epidemic”.

In situations with imperfect information and weak incentives, such as cross-border trade, face-to-face contact is critical to alleviate frictions. However, such contact was exogenously disrupted during the SARS epidemic due to travel bans on countries with local transmissions of SARS. I will explore this natural experiment to study how trade relationships with differential information frictions and incentive schemes responded to travel bans.