

Contact Information:

30-31 Buccleuch Place
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Employment:

2022-present	Early Career Researcher in Economics, University of Edinburgh
2021-2022	Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Hong Kong

Undergraduate Studies:

2013	Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours), University of Hong Kong
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Graduate Studies:

2014	Master in Specialised Economic Analysis, Barcelona GSE
2016	Master in Economics and Finance (Final Grade: A), CEMFI
2021	Ph.D. in Economics (Cum Laude), CEMFI
	Thesis Committee: Diego Puga (Advisor), Paula Bustos and Nezih Guner

Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary: Urban Economics, International Trade, Economic Geography
Secondary: Labour Economics, Economic History

Graduate Teaching:

2022/2023 to present	International Trade (lectures and course organiser), University of Edinburgh
2022/2023 to present	Basic Statistics (lectures), University of Edinburgh
2018/2019	Uncertainty and Information (tutorials), CEMFI
2017/2018, 2018/2019	Introduction to Making Maps Using GIS (lectures), CEMFI

Undergraduate Teaching:

2022/2023 to present	Development, Inequality and Trade (lectures, tutorials and course organiser), University of Edinburgh
2022/2023, 2023/2024	Topics in Microeconomics (tutorials), University of Edinburgh
2022/2023 to present	Applications of Econometrics (tutorials), University of Edinburgh
Summer 2018&2019	Big Data Management with Python (lectures), CEMFI

Dissertation Supervision:

2023/2024	9 undergraduate dissertations and 1 master dissertation
2022/2023	10 undergraduate dissertations

Service:

2024/2025	Cohort Lead, University of Edinburgh
2019, 2020	Scientific Committee of RES Symposium of Junior Researchers

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2017-2020	CEMFI, <i>Research Assistant for Professor Diego Puga</i>
2016-2017	CEMFI, <i>Research Assistant for Professor Joan Monras</i>
Summer 2015	Bank of Spain, Microeconomic Studies Division, <i>Research Assistant for Ernesto Villanueva</i>

Presentations:

2024	Bristol Applied Economics Meetings, IEB Workshop in Urban Economics
2023	RES and SES Annual Conference, GEP/CEPR Postgraduate Conference, EEA-ESEM congress, Women in International Economics Conference
2021	European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, Virtual Economic History Seminar, CES North America Virtual Conference
2020	Virtual Econometrics Society European Winter Meeting, Virtual North East Universities Development Consortium, Virtual Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, CES North America Virtual Conference
2019	Econometrics Society European Winter Meeting, Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, LSE Economic History Graduate Seminar, UC3M Applied Reading Group, European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association
2018	Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, CAGE&IAS Summer School
2017	Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture European Conference, Summer School in Urban Economics, Econometrics Society Asian Meeting

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2018-2021	Spanish Ministry of Economics and Competitiveness Pre-Doctoral Grant (ID: BES-2017-082187)
2018-2021	Maria de Maeztu Ph.D. Scholarship
2018-2021	UIMP Travel Grant
2016-2018	Ph.D. Scholarship-ERC Advanced Grant Agreement (ID: 695107-DYNURBAN, PI: Professor Diego Puga)
2014-2016	CEMFI Master Scholarship
2009-2012	Deans's Honours List
2012	HSBC Scholarship for Mainland Students
2011	Hong Kong University Alumni Prizes
2011	C.V.Starr Scholarships

Languages: English (fluent), Chinese (native), Spanish (intermediate)

Technical Skills: Stata, Python, MATLAB, R, ArcGIS, LaTeX

Research Papers:

“The Roadblock Effect”

This paper investigates a novel “roadblock effect,” whereby temporary forced route changes catalyse the adoption of a new transport technology. The Taiping Rebellion in 19th-century China ravaged many cities, but also blocked key inland routes, triggering investments facilitating steamship trade. Combining a trade model featuring modal and route choice, shipping records, and a new method to estimate historical transport costs, I show that the post-rebellion spatial variation in maritime trade was driven by blocked inland routes and the feasibility of sea alternatives. This moved many trade routes to the sea and shifted population towards port cities.

“Minority Bureaucrats' Networks and Career Progression: Evidence from the Chinese Maritime Customs Service” with Stephan Maurer

Do minorities benefit from social networks? In this paper, we study this question using the historical example of China's first modern bureaucratic organization, the Chinese Maritime Customs Service. Drawing on newly digitized personnel records from 1876-1911, we first show that the Chinese clerks employed by the service were predominantly Cantonese. Using the exogenous transfers of clerks across stations, we then estimate that a non-Cantonese (minority) clerk benefited significantly from meeting at least one colleague from his same province and dialect. Such connections led to faster promotion and a 7.5% salary increase, with even stronger effects when meeting a clerk who was either senior or of high quality.

“Rushed to the Altar: The Effect of Social Interactions on Migrant Workers' Marriage Age”

This paper provides novel evidence that social interactions of rural-to-urban migrants enforce traditional norms. Using variation of social pressure to conform to rural norms from migrants from the same hometown in the workplace, we find that the concentration of same-origin co-workers substantially increases the likelihood of early marriage for female rural-to-urban migrants in China, but not for male migrants. Consistent with the norm-based explanation for the association between social interactions and early marriage, the gender-differential effect is more pronounced for migrants from regions with more traditional gender norms. The effect is not driven by matching or self-selection into social interactions.

“School Quality vs Air Pollution” with Radine Rafols and Yu Zhu