YAN HU
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Employment:
Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Hong Kong,   7/2021-

Research Interests:
Applied Microeconomics, Urban Economics, Development Economics

Education:
Ph.D. in Economics (Cum Laude), CEMFI   2016-2021
Thesis Committee: Diego Puga (Advisor), Paula Bustos, Nezih Guner

Visiting Student, Wharton Real Estate Department at the University of Pennsylvania   10/2019-11/2019

Master in Economics and Finance (Grade A), CEMFI   2014-2016

Master in Economics of Public Policy, Barcelona GSE   2013-2014

Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours), University of Hong Kong   2009-2013

Exchange Program, University of California San Diego   9/2010-12/2010

Woking Papers:

"The Roadblock Effect: War Shocks, Modal Shifts, and Population Changes"

Abstract: 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 land routes, triggering investments facilitating steamship trade. Combining a trade model featuring modal and route choice, shipping records, and a new method to estimate historical trade costs, I show that the post-rebellion spatial variation in steamship trade was driven by blocked land routes and the feasibility of sea alternatives. This permanently moved many trade routes to sea and shifted population towards port cities.

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

Abstract: This paper provides causal evidence that social interactions can regulate individual behaviour through norms as a channel of cultural persistence. Using variation of social pressure to conform to the rural norm of early marriage from co-workers from the same rural origin in the workplace, I 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 male migrants. Consistent with the norm-based explanation for the association between social interactions and early marriage, the gender-differential effect of the concentration of same-origin co-workers is larger for migrants from regions with more traditional gender norms. The effect is not driven by matching or self-selection into social interactions.

Presentations:

2021	Southwestern University of Finance and Economics RIEM, University of Hong Kong, University of Liverpool, European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, Virtual Economic History Seminar, CES North America Virtual Conference, Fudan University (Scheduled)
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, Jinan University IESR

2019 Econometrics Society European Winter Meeting (Rotterdam), Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Philadelphia), LSE Economic History Graduate Seminar, UC3M Applied Reading Group, European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Amsterdam)

2018 Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (New York), CAGE&IAS Summer School (Warwick)

2017 Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture European Conference (Bologna), Summer School in Urban Economics (Paris), Econometrics Society Asian Meeting (Hong Kong)

Academic Service

2019, 2020 Scientific Committee of RES Symposium of Junior Researchers

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