



Dear Hiring Committee,

I am writing to apply for the Assistant Professor position in Economics. I am currently a doctoral student in the Department of Economics at the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC), where I studied under the direction of Professor Jonathan Robinson, Alan Spearot, and Ajay Shenoy, and expect to receive my Ph.D. in June 2025.

My research interests are in Development Economics and Applied Econometrics, focusing on the economic development of lower-income countries and the role of technology in global poverty reduction. My work emphasizes quality upgrading, value chains, technology adoption, and financial inclusion. My research relies primarily on original data collected in developing countries. I have conducted extensive fieldwork in Kenya (36 months), Rwanda (10 months), and Tanzania (1 month). Methodologically, I mainly use randomized controlled trials (RCTs). I also apply diverse empirical methods, depending on what the research question requires, such as Instrumental Variables (IV) for analyzing administrative data and Bayesian statistics for model simulation, estimation, and prediction. My independent research has been financially supported by a number of competitive grants, including [NSF Economics Dissertation Grant](#), [The Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics](#), [MIT/J-PAL DAISI](#), [PEDL \(CEPR/FCDO Initiative\)](#), [CGIAR Standing Panel on Impact Assessment \(SPIA\)](#), [SurveyCTO](#), [UCSC Blum Center](#), and [UCSC Economics Department](#).

During my Ph.D. study, I produced a job market paper and co-authored two research papers, one of which was published in the *Journal of Health Economics*, and the other one is a full-scale RCT funded by the [BASIS MRR Innovation Lab](#) and the [MIT/J-PAL ATAI](#). I am confident in my research productivity in the coming years. I currently have two additional RCT projects in the field, one funded by [MIT/J-PAL ATAI](#) and the other by [PEDL \(CEPR/FCDO Initiative\)](#).

In addition to my research, I am deeply invested in inclusive and student-centered teaching. Recognized with the UCSC Economics Department's *Award for Excellence in Teaching*, I strive to create supportive learning environments that accommodate students from diverse backgrounds. I am prepared to teach microeconomics, econometrics, agricultural, environmental and development economics, and public economics at both graduate and undergraduate levels.

I have enclosed all the documents required for this position. I will gladly provide any other supporting materials upon request. I will be available for either remote interviews and/or in-person interviews at the 2025 ASSA Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Guanghong Xu

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