

KA-LEUNG LAM

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EMPLOYMENT

Monash Centre for Financial Studies, Monash University, *Melbourne, Australia*
Research Fellow, *Aug 2024 – Present*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Finance (Banking), Macroeconomics, Labour Economics

EDUCATION

Princeton University, *United States*

PhD in Economics, *Aug 2018 – May 2024*

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), *Hong Kong*

MPhil in Economics, *Sep 2016 – May 2018*

The University of Hong Kong (HKU), *Hong Kong*

BEcon&Fin (First Class Honours), Minor in Mathematics, *Sep 2012 – May 2016*

University of California, San Diego (UCSD), *United States*

Exchange student, *Oct – Dec 2014*

WORKING PAPER

1. Banks' Geographic Expansion: New Location, Same Old Neighbours

Abstract. This paper explores how frictions in lending relationships affect banks' geographic expansion. Leveraging the US interstate banking deregulation as a natural experiment, I find that banks are more likely to expand to new locations with a stronger presence of "familiar" firms. These firms already operate in the bank's original neighbourhoods. This finding is consistent with bank-firm lending relationships being local and persistent. Furthermore, the statewide deregulation does not benefit all regions and firms equally. Areas where more "familiar" entities experience more entries and higher growth. Small businesses do not benefit as much as large firms. These findings highlight the potential limitations of banking deregulation in generating economic growth and offer guidance for more effective and equitable financial reforms.

WORK IN PROGRESS

1. The Financial Transmission of Trade Shocks: Household Credit Channel

Abstract. Banks can transmit trade shocks across regions and from tradable to non-tradable sectors. This paper studies the response of US banks to the increase in import competition in the local economy due to China's accession to WTO. I find that exposed banks experience slower growth in deposits and contract their household lendings. Regions with greater reliance on lending from exposed banks have slower employment growth in the non-tradable sectors.

2. Capital Injection: Live Long and Wither

Abstract. This paper studies the effects of government bailouts on banks' survival during the crisis. I find that US banks who received capital injections from the Treasury's Capital Purchase Program had a lower failure rate than the non-recipient. However, the rescuing effects dissipate shortly after the peak of the crisis. Meanwhile, capital recipients also had a substantially higher chance of being acquired, possibly due to political pressures and management inefficiency, resulting in a higher overall exit rate.

DATA COLLECTIONS

1. The Early County Business Pattern Files: 1946–1974

(with Fabian Eckert, Atif Mian, Karsten Müller, Rafael Schwalb, and Amir Sufi)
NBER Working Paper No. 30578, October 2022.

Abstract. The County Business Pattern (CBP) files contain employment and establishment counts for detailed industry codes covering all counties in the United States. The contribution of this project is to digitize, clean, and prepare the CBP files during 1946–1974.

2. County Business Patterns 1946–2016: A User Manual

(with Fabian Eckert, Atif Mian, Karsten Müller, Rafael Schwalb, and Amir Sufi)

Abstract. This user manual provides a detailed description of a database containing all CBP datasets published during the first 70 years since its inception. We digitized historical data from print, standardized all data format, and imputed undisclosed employment counts. It also documents changes in the data structure, industry classifications and county boundaries.

3. Historical Data on Syndicated Loans 1973–1990

(with Atif Mian, Karsten Müller and Amir Sufi)

Abstract. We tabulate historical data on syndicated loans published on World Bank “Borrowing in International Capital Markets” and the Euromoney magazine. These new data significantly expand the currently available syndicated loan data, and are particularly relevant for research on international banking activities.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Princeton University

ECO362 Financial Investments (UG, Motohiro Yogo)

ECO363 Corporate Finance and Financial Institutions (UG, David Schoenherr)

FIN502 Corporate Finance and Financial Accounting (MFin, Ernest Liu)

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Princeton Graduate Fellowship, 2018–2024

HKUST Postgraduate Studentship, 2016–2018

Dean's Honour List, HKU, 2012–2016

C.V. Starr Scholarship, HKU, 2014

SKILLS

Programming: R, \LaTeX , ArcGIS

Languages: English, Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese

Last Update: September 2024