

Sung-Ju Wu

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Economics, Duke University
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RESEARCH FIELDS

International Trade; Development; Political Economy

EDUCATION

Duke University

Ph.D. Economics

2024 (Expected)

M.A. Economics

2021

National Taiwan University

M.A. Economics

2018

B.A. Economics (Major) & Political Science (Minor)

2015

University of Mannheim

Exchange Program

2013-2014

WORKING PAPERS

Foreign Ownership and Firm Response to Foreign Demand Shocks Job Market Paper

This paper studies firm response and welfare implication of foreign demand shocks in a developing country when foreign-owned firms repatriate their gains. Using an enterprise survey in Vietnam, I first show that trade activities in Vietnam are predominantly conducted by foreign-owned manufacturers rather than domestic ones, even conditional on firm size. Exploiting the US-China trade war episode in 2018-2019 as a positive foreign demand shock to all Vietnam-based manufacturers, I provide evidence that the positive responses in input sourcing, product export, and employment are mainly driven by foreign-owned manufacturers, especially Chinese manufacturers. Motivated by the findings, I develop and estimate a quantitative model of trade participation with foreign ownership, where domestic and foreign-owned firms differ in their productivity, fixed costs of sourcing and exporting, as well as whether they retain net profits in Vietnam. The welfare contribution of a simulated demand shock to Vietnam similar in magnitude to the trade war would be 15 percent higher if foreign-owned manufacturers were to retain all their profits locally.

Firm and Labor Adjustments to FDI Liberalization, February 2023

with Ming-Jen Lin and Yi-Ting Wang

Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of International Economics*

This paper studies how liberalizing outward foreign direct investments (FDI) affects manufacturers' engagement in global production and their domestic workers' labor market outcomes. Focusing on a liberalization policy in 2001 by the government of Taiwan that allowed 122 electronic products to be produced in China, we estimate its effect on Taiwanese electronic manufacturers and their domestic workers. Employing a matched difference-in-differences strategy, we find that the manufacturers targeted by the policy were on average 16% more likely to invest in China relative to the non-targeted ones. Correspondingly, the domestic workers initially employed by the targeted manufacturers were on average more likely to change their jobs, stay employed for fewer years, and have lower wages in subsequent years relative to those employed by the non-targeted ones. The worker-level effects of the policy exhibited substantial heterogeneity across the initial wage distribution, with the top-decile workers benefiting and the other workers losing on average.

WORK IN
PROGRESS

The Dynamics of Global Production

The Regional Effect of FDI Composition Change in Vietnam

CONFERENCE
PRESENTATION

Fall Meeting of the Midwest International Trade Conference, Atlanta. (November 2023, scheduled)

Economics Graduate Student Conference, St. Louis. (October 2023, scheduled)

Taiwan Economics Research Workshop, Taipei. (August 2023)

Spring Meeting of the Midwest International Trade Conference, Knoxville. (April 2023)

Asian Meeting (East and South-East Asia) of the Econometric Society, Tokyo. (August 2022)

Annual Conference of the North American Taiwan Studies Association (NATSA), Washington D.C. (July 2022)

Annual Conference of the International Association for Applied Econometrics (IAAE), London. (June 2022)

RESEARCH
EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Jason Baron, Department of Economics, Duke University. (2021-2023)

Research Assistant to Hans Hanpu Tung, Department of Political Science, National Taiwan University. (2016-2017)

Research Assistant to Fengyu Lee, Department of Political Science, National Taiwan University. (2014-2015)

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

Instructor, *Statistical Foundations of Econometrics and Data Science*, Department of Economics, Duke University. (Summer 2022)

Teaching Assistant, *Intermediate Microeconomics II*, Department of Economics, Duke University. (Fall 2023)

Teaching Assistant, *Intermediate Microeconomics I*, Department of Economics, Duke University. (Fall 2019, Spring 2020)

Teaching Assistant, *Game Theory in Everyday Life*, Department of Economics, National Taiwan University. (Fall 2017)

Teaching Assistant, *Principle of Economics I & II*, Department of Economics, National Taiwan University. (Fall 2016, Spring 2017)

DEPARTMENT
SERVICE

Co-Director, Graduate Mentorship Program, Department of Economics, Duke University. (2022-2023)

Co-Chair, Economics Graduate House Committee, Department of Economics, Duke University. (2022-2023)

HONORS AND
AWARDS

PhD Fellow, Institute of Economics, Academia Sinica. (2022-)
Government Scholarships for Study Abroad (GSSA), Ministry of Education, Taiwan. (2021)
Graduate Fellowship and Tuition Scholarship, Duke University. (2018-2024)
E.SUN Outstanding Management Talent Scholarship, E.SUN Commercial Bank. (Fall 2017)
I-Sian Scholarship for College of Social Science, National Taiwan University. (Fall 2016)
MOE Scholarship for Excellent Students with Economic Disadvantage to Study Overseas, Ministry of Education, Taiwan. (2013)
NTU Alumni Association Outstanding Student Scholarship, NTU Alumni Association. (Fall 2011)
Presidential Award (Top 5% in the Department), National Taiwan University. (Spring 2011)

LANGUAGES

Mandarin (native), English (fluent), German (beginner), Spanish (beginner)

REFERENCES

Daniel Yi Xu

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Department of Economics
North Carolina State University
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