

TONG NI (倪童)

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Singapore Management University, 2021–2026 (expected)
Dissertation Title: “Essays on International Trade and Spatial Economics”
Dissertation Committee: Yuan Mei (co-advisor), Lin Ma (co-advisor), Pao-Li Chang, Haichao Fan
M.Econ., Applied Economics, Xi’an Jiaotong University, 2018–2021
Diplôme d’Ingénieur (MSc. Eng., Dual Degree), CentraleSupélec (Paris-Saclay University), 2016–2018
B.Eng., Electrical Engineering and Automation, Xi’an Jiaotong University, 2014–2018

RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Trade, Spatial Economics

PUBLICATIONS

“Climate Change, Trade Cost, and Economic Growth: A Quantitative Estimation Based on International Shipping Data”, with Huanhuan Wang and Ce Guo, *Journal of Management World* (in Chinese, 管理世界), 2025, 41(09), 94–118.

WORKING PAPERS

“Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and Trade Policy: A Quantitative Analysis”, with Haichao Fan, Yuan Mei, and Huanhuan Wang, *Job Market Paper*, 2025
“Tariffs as Bargaining Chips: A Quantitative Analysis of the U.S.-China Trade War”, with Naiyuan Hu and Yuan Mei, 2025, **Revise and Resubmit at *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics***
“Investing in a Mobile Asset: Higher Education, Graduate Mobility, and Underinvestment”, with Naiyuan Hu, Lin Ma, and Ben Zou, 2025

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

“Love Panda, Love China: The Panda Effect on International Trade”, with Pao-Li Chang, Wei Jin, Dingfan Kang, and Angdi Lu
“Relaxation of Internal Migration Restrictions and Labor Market Sorting”, with Yutao Wang

SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

| | |
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| 2025 | Shanghai University of Finance and Economics*, Fudan University*, Nankai University*, Singapore Management University, HKUST-Fudan-SMU Conference on International Economics (Fudan University), Asia Pacific Trade Seminars (University of Tokyo) |
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| 2024 | European Trade Study Group (Athens University of Economics and Business), Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society (Zhejiang University), Singapore Rising Scholars Conference (<i>Best Paper Award</i> , SMU) |
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AWARDS, HONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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| 2025–2026 | Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship, SMU |
| 2024–2025 | Presidential Doctoral Fellowship, SMU |
| 2022 | Best First-Year Student Award, SMU |
| 2021–2025 | Doctoral Full Scholarship, Singapore Ministry of Education |
| 2021 | Distinguished Master's Thesis Award, XJTU |
| 2018–2021 | Academic Scholarship, XJTU |
| 2016–2018 | Eiffel Scholarship, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs |
| 2015 | Ultra-High-Voltage Scholarship (Top 3 students), State Grid Corporation of China |

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Singapore Management University

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| 2024–2025 | International Economics (Undergraduate), Prof. Yuan Mei |
| 2024 | International Economics (Undergraduate), Prof. Yang Jiao |
| 2023 | Economics of Globalization (Undergraduate), Prof. Yuan Mei |
| 2023–2025 | Macroeconomics II (Undergraduate), Prof. Jianhuan Xu |
| 2022–2024 | Microeconomics II (Ph.D.), Prof. Shurojit Chatterji |

Teaching Assistant, Xi'an Jiaotong University

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| 2020 | Econometrics I (Master's), Prof. Weihong Zeng |
| 2020 | Panel Data Analysis (Master's), Prof. Goeun Lee |
| 2020 | Principles of Economics (Undergraduate), Prof. Yu-Sen Kwoh |

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Singapore Management University

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| 2024 | Research Assistant to Prof. Lin Ma |
| 2023 | Research Assistant to Prof. Christine Ho |
| 2023–2025 | Research Assistant to Prof. Pao-Li Chang |
| 2022–2024 | Research Assistant to Prof. Yuan Mei |

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

Journal Referee

Economic Modelling, Review of World Economics

Workshop Organization

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| 2024–2025 | SMU International Trade Study Group |
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Summer School

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| 2024 | CUHK Summer School of Asia in the Global Economy —“Rethinking Supply Chains” |
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SKILLS AND PERSONAL INFORMATION

Programming MATLAB, Stata, Julia, Python, \LaTeX
Languages English (Fluent), French (Intermediate), Mandarin Chinese (Native)
Personal Born July 1996; Male; Chinese citizen

REFERENCES

Prof. Yuan Mei (Co-Advisor)

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Singapore Management University
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Prof. Haichao Fan

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Phone: +86 021-6564-8982
Email: fan_haichao@fudan.edu.cn

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WORKING PAPER ABSTRACT

“Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and Trade Policy: A Quantitative Analysis”, with Haichao Fan, Yuan Mei, and Huanhuan Wang, *Job Market Paper*, 2025

Abstract: We assess the environmental and economic impacts of the European Union’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). We develop a multi-country, multi-sector general equilibrium model that incorporates input–output linkages, carbon supply chains, and global emission externalities. Our results show that unilateral CBAM modestly reduces global emissions due to indirect carbon leakage through energy markets, while broader sectoral coverage weakens effectiveness by further diluting industrial reallocation incentives. Global welfare improves marginally when environmental benefits are accounted for. Strategic carbon policy adjustments under a non-cooperative Nash equilibrium enhance effectiveness by mitigating both free riding and indirect leakage. Multilateral decarbonization negotiations yield substantial gains, with CBAM functioning as a powerful enforcement device that raises the cost of disagreement and fosters deeper global climate cooperation.

“Tariffs as Bargaining Chips: A Quantitative Analysis of the U.S.–China Trade War”, with Naiyuan Hu and Yuan Mei, 2025, **Revise and Resubmit at *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics***

Abstract: Non-cooperative tariffs change outside options and thus affect welfare outcomes in potential tariff negotiations. We focus on the U.S.–China trade war from 2018 through 2019 and examine whether such tariffs can serve as leverage to improve U.S. post-negotiation welfare. With a multi-country, multi-sector quantitative trade model, we simulate negotiations from two starting points: the 2017 baseline and the 2019 trade-war equilibrium. Our results show that, across reasonable estimates of U.S. bargaining power, imposing trade-war tariffs before the negotiations consistently enhances U.S. post-negotiation welfare.

“Investing in a Mobile Asset: Higher Education, Graduate Mobility, and Underinvestment”, with Naiyuan Hu, Lin Ma, and Ben Zou, 2025

Abstract: Higher education produces a mobile asset—skilled graduates—who may leave the jurisdiction where they were trained, making education a “leaky” investment for local governments. We develop a dynamic spatial life-cycle general equilibrium model in which individuals endogenously choose education and migration, while local governments allocate budgets and set admission policies. Quantified to the context of China, the model shows that the observed college expansion path reflects substantial underinvestment relative to a central planner benchmark, leaving large efficiency and equality gains unrealized. Underinvestment persists in a decentralized, locally funded Nash equilibrium, as provinces strategically free ride on inflows of graduates educated elsewhere and hold back their own investment, leading to national inefficiency. Optimal place-based strategies depend on development stage: advanced regions benefit from front-loaded education investment, whereas lagging provinces optimally delay investment until productivity and retention conditions improve.