Xiaoyang Li

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OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

University of Chicago Department of Economics 1126 E 59 Street Chicago, IL 60637 USA

Personal Information

Date of Birth December 15, 1997

Citizenship Canada

RESEARCH FIELDS

Macroeconomics, Innovation, Firm Dynamics

EDUCATION

University of Chicago

Ph.D. in Economics

Chicago, IL 2019–2025 (expected)

REFERENCES

Professor Chang-tai Hsieh

Booth School of Business, University of Chicago chang-tai.hsieh@chicagobooth.edu

Professor Mikhail Golosov

Department of Economics, University of Chicago golosov@uchicago.edu

University of Toronto

B.S. Triple Major in Mathematics, Economics, Statistics

Professor Esteban Rossi-Hansberg

Department of Economics, University of Chicago rossihansberg@uchicago.edu

Toronto, ON

2015-2019

WORKING PAPERS

"Industry Shakeouts after an Innovation Breakthrough" (Job Market Paper)

Existing literature holds that after a significant invention revolutionizes an industry, the number of active firms first rises, and then later falls, in a "shakeout". This paper challenges that view with new empirical evidence across the entire economy. I introduce a statistical filter that identifies potential breakthroughs through sustained anomalies in net firm entry rates, surpassing narrative-based approaches by avoiding heuristic biases and being applicable across all industries, including services. The filter's reliability is demonstrated by its alignment with well-known breakthroughs and its robustness when tested against existing studies. Contrary to established beliefs, most industries do not experience a decline in the number of firms following a technological revolution. Using a variant of Hopenhayn's model (1992), I show that this outcome is driven by the structural characteristics of the industries and the new technologies: modest learning curves, lower returns to scale, and high inter-industry demand substitution. Thus, most new technologies have allowed returns to innovation to be widely shared among firms, enhancing competition on the extensive margin and increasing product diversity.

"Much ado about Property Rights: China's Agricultural Wedges" (with Wei Lin & Shijian Yang)

Recent work in misallocation centers on estimating the effects of removing policy distortions on aggregate productivity and output. However, the efficacy of reversing distortions on allocation strongly depends on whether the agents affected have market incentives and on the relationships between the individual distortions. We show that a 2003 Chinese land law, which abolished a decades-old policy of egalitarian land reallocation and allowed land rentals, improved allocation among farmers that sell to the market, but not in general. Using a rich panel dataset of the production and sales behavior of Chinese farmers, we decompose the wedges by factor input. We quantify the impact of the 2003 land law on individual factor distortions and calculate the impact of the law on output. We show that impact of the law is relatively small compared to potential welfare gains from the complete elimination of individual wedges.

Research Assistance

Rotman	School	of	Management,	University	of Toronto
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Professor Nathaniel Baum-Snow 2018

Professor Daniel Trefler 2017-2018

TEACHING

• TA, Competitive Strategy (EMBA)

Prof. Luis Garicano, University of Chicago Booth School of Business

Winter 2024

• TA, Advanced Macroeconomic Analysis (Masters)

Prof. Harald Uhlig, University of Chicago

2021, 2022, 2023

• TA, Honors Macro Theory and Policy (Undergraduate)

Prof. Kotaro Yoshida, University of Chicago

2022, 2023

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

• Research Scholarship, University of Toronto Excellence Awards	2018
• Nanda Choudhry Prize in Economics, University of Toronto	2017
• Fraser-Crawford Scholar, Trinity College in the University of Toronto	2016-2017
• Dean's List Scholar, University of Toronto	2016-2018
• University of Toronto Scholar, University of Toronto	2015

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Kaplan Reading Group Organizer, University of Chicago	2022 - 2024
Coordinated Professor Greg Kaplan's group for upper year macroeconomics students	
Mathematics Undergraduate Representative, University of Toronto	2018 -2019
Invited by the Mathematics Undergraduate Chair, Professor Dror Bar-Natan	

Extracurricular Activities

•	Political Economy Club Committee Organized the economics PhD student club. Headed the mentoring program.	2022-2023
•	University of Chicago Symphony Orchestra Second violin.	2019-2020
•	Hart House Orchestra, University of Toronto First violin. Carnegie Hall Debut on Feb 19 2017.	2015-2019

LANGUAGES

English: NativeMandarin: Fluent

• French: Working proficiency

• Latin: Reading