Yuta SUZUKI

https://sites.google.com/view/yuta-suzuki-econ/

303 Kern Building
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802

Email: yxs46@psu.edu
Phone: +1 (814) 862-8351
Citizenship: Japan

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Pennsylvania State University	2016-Present
M.A. in Economics, Hitotsubashi University	2013-2015
B.A. in Economics, Hitotsubashi University	2009-2013

FIELDS OF INTEREST

International Trade, Regional Economics, Demography

RESEARCH PAPERS

"Local Shocks and Regional Dynamics in an Aging Economy" (Job Market Paper) [link to the paper]

Older people are less mobile than young people are. Population aging thus means more people would be trapped in locations affected by a shock, preventing the economy from smoothing out spatial differences in labor market outcomes. However, the existence of a large share of immobile workers may mitigate their welfare effects by delaying the capital supply adjustment that would be caused by a flow of workers. In order to study how population aging affects the welfare effects of a local shock, this paper develops a dynamic spatial specific-factor model with demographics that change dynamically depending on fertility rates. Individuals decide where to live and whether to work. Their choices vary over the life cycle because the expected working lifetime and fundamentals (e.g., mobility costs) vary with demographic factors. Hence, aggregate labor adjustment depends on the economy's age structure. Forward-looking landlords accumulate location-specific capital, and the dynamics of labor and capital interact with each other. I apply the model to Japan and find that population aging can mitigate the welfare loss of workers in a location affected by a negative shock.

"Learning to Use Trade Agreements" (submitted) [link to the paper]
(with Kala Krishna, Carlos Salamanca, Christian Volpe Martincus), NBER working paper: 29319

Free trade or preferential trade areas (PTAs) allow importers who belong to the area to export to each other while paying zero or preferential tariffs as long as Rules of Origin (ROOs) are met. Meeting them is costly not only in terms of production costs but also in terms of documentation costs. We ask if these fixed costs of documentation change over time with the experience of the firm in obtaining preferential tariffs. We explore this using a unique importer-exporter matched transaction-level customs data set on a group of Latin American countries. Our estimating equation is model-based and shows that these fixed costs depend on the history of preference utilization. Most of the effect comes from experience in the same product and same partner, with some spillover to other partners buying the same product. There is little learning from experience in other products and other partners. When considering products that have been under preferences for a while, some learning might have occurred prior to the start of our data. Using a natural experiment in Argentina, where some products were newly brought under preferences, we show that learning is indeed larger for such products. As facilitating preference use today also makes it easier to use preferences in the future, interventions early on in the life of the FTA to reduce such costs would be more effective.

"Export Similarity and Correlation in Technologies of Close Countries" [link to the paper]

In a large class of international trade models, countries are equally heterogeneous as producers. However, geographically or historically closer countries have more similar product structures in their export, and their similarity is persistent. This paper proposes a model with a minimal deviation from the EK's Ricardian framework to explain the similarity. In the model, countries are exclusively classified into nests and allowed to have a comparative advantage in similar products within the nest rationalized by correlation in technologies. This correlation structure makes them more substitutable as suppliers, leading to higher trade elasticity within the nest. By simulation, I show that this model with correlation can generate the similarity in exporting products consistent with the data patterns, while a standard model does not. We can infer the correlation in technologies in the nested structure from trade elasticity estimated from a gravity equation. I find that countries showing strong export similarities have higher trade elasticity for many industries.

Research in Progress

"Impacts of the China Shock on Japanese Labor Markets: the Role of Demographics" (with Eiichi Tomiura)

Presentations

2021: Annual Meeting of the Canadian Economics Association, EEA-ESEM Virtual 2021, GSE-OSIPP-ISER Joint Conference in Economics at Osaka University, Hitotsubashi University, University of Niigata Prefecture
2020: Midwest International Trade Conference (canceled)

Awards and Grants

Joint Usage and Research Center Program at the Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University, 300,000 yen, (with Eiichi Tomiura).	2020-2021
Neil Wallace Award (Best Third Year Paper Award).	2019
Robert Daniels Award.	2019
Scholarship for Long-term Study Abroad. Japan Student Services Organization.	2016-2019

Research Experience

Research Assistant to Prof. Jonathan Eaton	2021-
Research Assistant to Prof. Fernando Parro	2020-2021
Research Assistant to Prof. Kala Krishna	2018-2020

Teaching Experience

Pennsylvania State University

International Economics, TA for Dr. P. Tantihkarnchana	2018

Hitotsubashi University

International Economics (undergraduate, in English), TA for Prof. J. Ishikawa	2015
Basic Microeconomics (undergraduate, in English), TA for Dr. D. Catambay for 3 semesters	2014-2015

Skills

Languages: English (fluent), Japanese (native)
Computer Skills: MATLAB, Stata, QGIS, LaTeX

References

Prof. Jonathan Eaton (advisor)
Department of Economics
Pennsylvania State University
☎ +1 (814) 867-3297
✉ jxe22@psu.edu

Prof. Kala Krishna
Department of Economics
Pennsylvania State University
☎ +1 (814) 865-1106
✉ kmk4@psu.edu

Prof. Fernando Parro
Department of Economics
Pennsylvania State University
☎ +1 (202) 812-5314
✉ fxp5102@psu.edu