Zeyi Qian

PhD Candidate · Economics · Urban and Trade

Clark University, 950 Main Street, Worcester, Massachusetts, 01610

✉ zeqian@clarku.edu | 🏠 http://zeyiqian.github.io | 🐦 @ZYQian_ECON

Education

Clark University   *Worcester, Massachusetts*
PhD in Economics   *2021-2026 (Expected)*
- Unproposed Dissertation: Quantitative Analysis on Spatial Distribution of Firms and International Trade
- Advisor: Dr. Junfu Zhang (Chair) and Dr. Kensuke Suzuki

Clark University   *Worcester, Massachusetts*
MA in Economics   *2021-2023*
- Master en route to PhD
- Advisor: Dr. Junfu Zhang

Shanghai University   *Shanghai, China*
MA in Economics   *2018-2021*
- Dissertation: FDI and Survival of Host Country Enterprises: Evidence from Firm Registry Data
- Advisor: Dr. Qiangyuan Chen

University of Toronto   *Toronto, Ontario*
International Visiting Graduate Student   *2019-2020*
- Joint Program with Shanghai University
- Advisor: Dr. Yao Luo

Shanghai Ocean University   *Shanghai, China*
BA in Economics   *2014-2018*
- First-Ranked GPA in Major (International Trade) and Qualified Postgraduate Recommendation

Selected Papers

Main

Trade and Spatial Distribution of Firms: Quantitative Analysis of Chinese Manufacturing, in progress
> with Kensuke Suzuki and Junfu Zhang
> **Abstract:** This paper studies the determinants of the spatial distribution of economic activities in China. Specifically, we focus on the different patterns of sectoral growth across Chinese provinces in the last two decades, followed by a series of dramatic policy reforms, including trade liberalization, infrastructure development, productivity growth, and relaxation of mobility restrictions for workers. To understand how those factors interact with each other to shape the spatial distribution of economic activities across regions and sectors, we develop a spatial general equilibrium model of international trade in the spirit of the Melitz-Chaney framework. We extend the heterogeneous firm model to a multi-sector and multi-region setup, incorporating rich sectoral and regional interactions. We bring the model to the data for the Chinese economy and simulate the counterfactual equilibria to account for the underlying mechanism of regional development.

Trade Shock and Dynamic Labor Allocation, in progress
> **Abstract:** The early 21st century saw the U.S. economy undergoing a profound structural shift, driven by the "China shock" following China's accession to the WTO. This trade shock initially significantly affected U.S. manufacturing, causing widespread job losses and economic disruption. However, contrary to expectations, the shock also accelerated the growth of the service sector, which emerged as a primary driver of economic expansion. A key mechanism behind this transformation was reducing labor relocation costs, enabling workers—particularly those with lower education levels—to switch industries and maximize their life utility. This adjustment not only offset the negative effects of the trade shock but also contributed to a re-optimization of labor market allocation. To understand this counterintuitive outcome, we develop a dynamic spatial model grounded in the frameworks of CDP and ACM. Our model integrates declining labor relocation costs with heterogeneity in workers' education levels and labor mobility. Numerical exercises using a toy model show that reducing labor

relocation costs allows more low-educated workers to transition into the service sector. These findings highlight the critical role of declining labor relocation costs in mitigating trade shock impacts and achieving an optimal labor market allocation.

Estimating Round-Tripping FDI from Firm-Level Data in China, *International Studies of Economics*, 2024, 1–24. with Junfu Zhang and Qiangyuan Chen, DOI: https://doi.org/10.1002/ise3.102

Others

International Twin Cities and Chinese Export Activities (Chinese), *Economic Theory and Business Management*, 2022, (3), 137-155. with Qiangyuan Chen and Jingyu Yang

The Man-Bear Race: A New Explanation of Regional Competition for China's High-Speed Rail Stations (Chinese), *South China Journal of Economics*, 2021, 40(2): 66-83. with Qiangyuan Chen, Zhenhuai Shi, and Xiaoping Li

Promotion Effect of FDI on Enterprise Survival in Host Country–A Discussion on Industry Safety and Market Access of Foreign Investment (Chinese), *China Industrial Economics*, 2021, (7), 137-155. with Qiangyuan Chen, Yu Chen, and Zhenhuai Shi

Presentations

2024	Graduate Student Seminar, **Clark University**
2023	Chinese Economist Society North American Conference, **University of Oklahoma;** Graduate Student Seminar, **Clark University**
2022	Graduate Student Seminar, **Clark University**
2020	Camphor Economic Circle Seminar, **University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences**
2019	Academic Forum on Regional Science and Urban Economics, **Shanghai University of Finance and Economics**; Shanghai Postgraduate Academic Forum, **University of Shanghai for Science and Technology**; Forum on Frontier of International Trade Theory and Demonstration, **Southwestern University of Finance and Economics**; Urban Development Forum, **Renmin University of China**; Innovation Forum, **Shandong University of Finance and Economics**; National Development Youth Forum, **Peking University**

Professional Experience

Spring 2025	**Teaching Assistant**, ECON 160: Intro to Statistical Analysis, supervised by Dr. Magda Tsaneva (Clark University)
Fall 2024	**Teaching Assistant**, ECON 160: Intro to Statistical Analysis, supervised by Dr. Moshi Alam (Clark University)
2021-2024	**Research Assistant,** supervised by Dr. Junfu Zhang, Dr. David Cuberes, Dr. Jon Denton-Schneider, and Dr. Kensuke Suzuki (Clark University)
2018-2021	**Research Assistant,** supervised by Dr. Qiangyuan Chen (Shanghai University/Renmin University of China) and Dr. Yao Luo (University of Toronto)
2018	**Survey Interviewer,** China Family Panel Studies (CFPS), Peking University

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

2024	E. C. H. Veendorp Award, **Clark University**	*USD 0.5k*
2023	Sheftel Travel Award, **Clark University**	*USD 0.6k*
2021-2024	NSFC Grant (72073093), **National Natural Science Foundation of China**	
2021	Chinese Government Scholarship, **China Scholarship Council**	*USD 91.2k*
2021	Outstanding Graduate, **Shanghai University**	
2020	Joint Program Grants for Graduate Students Studying Abroad, **Shanghai University**	*CNY 10k*
2019	National Scholarship, **Ministry of Education of China**	*CNY 20k*
2018	Goverment Grant (2018-Z-D02), **Shanghai Municipal Government Consulting Project**	
2018-2021	Academic Scholarship, **Shanghai University**	*CNY 36k*
2017	Shanghai Municipal Scholarship, **Shanghai Municipal Education Commission**	*CNY 8k*
2014-2018	Outstanding Student, **Shanghai Ocean University**	
2014-2018	Academic Scholarship, **Shanghai Ocean University**	*CNY 9.6k*

Language & Skills

Language: Chinese (native), English (fluent)

Computer: Matlab, Julia, Stata, ArcGIS, Python (web crawling), R (basic)