

Zeyi Qian

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Education

Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts, United States PhD in Economics	2026 (Expected)
Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts, United States MA in Economics	2023
Shanghai University, Shanghai, China MA in Economics	2021
University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada International Visiting Graduate Student	2020
Shanghai Ocean University, Shanghai, China BA in Economics	2018

References

Junfu Zhang Professor of Economics PhD Advisor (Co-Chair) Clark University juzhang@clarku.edu	Kensuke Suzuki Assistant Professor of Economics PhD Advisor (Co-Chair) Clark University ksuzuki@clarku.edu	Shihe Fu Professor of Economics Committee Member Wuhan University fushihe@whu.edu.cn
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Working Papers & Works in Progress

Trade Costs, Entry Costs, and Regional Economic Growth in China (Job Market Paper)

Joint with Kensuke Suzuki and Junfu Zhang

This paper examines sectoral growth patterns across Chinese provinces during the country's economic takeoff in the early 2000s, following major policy reforms including trade liberalization, infrastructure expansion, business climate improvements, and relaxed rural-to-urban migration restrictions. We develop a multi-sector, multi-region spatial general equilibrium model with heterogeneous firms *à la* Melitz-Chaney to analyze how these reforms interacted to shape regional economic growth. We quantify the model for the Chinese economy and conduct counterfactuals to identify the key mechanisms driving regional development. We find that reductions in trade costs and lowered entry barriers facilitate firm entry and intensify competition. Together, these factors shape regional specialization and China's overall economic growth. Our decomposition exercises reveal that lowered business entry costs played a larger role than the reduction in trade costs in promoting the growth of real wages, especially in inland provinces, is primarily driven by the selection effect through the reallocation of resources towards more productive firms and the exit of less productive ones.

Aging Economy and Comparative Advantage: A Quantitative Analysis of Japan

Joint with Kensuke Suzuki and Junfu Zhang

This paper examines the structural transformation of an aging economy, using Japan as a case study. We propose that the declining young workforce grants a comparative advantage to sectors demanding elderly labor and extensive experience, shifting away from labor-intensive young sectors. Using a Krugman spatial general equilibrium model calibrated with Japanese data, our counterfactual analysis shows that while introducing young labor can mitigate the shift, policies encouraging elderly employment accelerate the transition to an elderly-sector-dominated economy. By comparing with an Eaton-Kortum model, we demonstrate that scale economies in the Krugman framework significantly amplify the effects of demographics by lowering average costs and enhancing the elderly sector's competitiveness.

Breaking Barriers: Regional Economic Integration and National Market Unification (*China Economic Review* Under Review)

Joint with Haoyun Zhao

Political Turnover and the “Race to the Bottom”: Evidence from China’s County-Level Poverty Alleviation
(*Economics Bulletin* Under Review)

Venture Capital Network and Innovation of New Scientific and Technological Enterprises: An Information Broker’s Perspective (in Chinese, *The Journal of World Economy* R&R)

Joint with Qiangyuan Chen, Huirong Li, and Yihua Yu

Government Procurement and Firm Development: Selection, Promotion, and Its Macroeconomic Effects (in Chinese, *The Journal of Quantitative & Technical Economics* R&R)

Joint with Xiaoping Li, Haoyun Zhao, and Feitao Jiang

Leisure Demand and Pastime Trade

Joint with Shihe Fu

Trade Shock and Dynamic Labor Allocation

Publications

How City Size Affects Firm Survival: Evidence from Chinese Enterprise Registration Data

Applied Economics Letters, 2025, 1-5.

Joint with Haoyun Zhao, Yameng Guo, and Yang Ye

Estimating Round-Tripping FDI from Firm-Level Data in China

International Studies of Economics, 2025, 20(2): 138-152.

Joint with Junfu Zhang, and Qiangyuan Chen

The Spatiotemporal Evolution of Talent Policies and Their Impact on New Quality Productive Forces in Chinese Prefecture-Level Cities: Based on Quantitative Analysis of 3308 Policy Texts from 2002 to 2021 (in Chinese)

Studies in Science of Science, 2025, 1-18.

Joint with Yang Ye, Jie Xu, and Zhanglong Huang

International Twin Cities and Chinese Export Activities (in Chinese)

Economic Theory and Business Management, 2022, 42(3), 100-112.

Joint with Jingyu Yang, and Qiangyuan Chen

Promotion Effect of FDI on Enterprise Survival in Host Country—A Discussion on Industry Safety and Market Access of Foreign Investment (in Chinese)

China Industrial Economics, 2021, (7), 137-155.

Joint with Qiangyuan Chen, Yu Chen, and Zhenhuai Shi

The Man-Bear Race: A New Explanation of Regional Competition for China’s High-Speed Rail Stations (in Chinese)

South China Journal of Economics, 2021, 40(2), 66-83.

Joint with Qiangyuan Chen, Zhenhuai Shi, and Xiaoping Li

Presentations

2025

Midwest International Trade & Theory Conference (Penn State University, upcoming), Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting (Tampa, FL, upcoming), Annual Meetings of the Midwest Economics Association (Kansas City, MO), Graduate Student Seminar (Clark University)

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)

Teaching

Teaching Assistant

Econometrics (Undergraduate), supervised by Moshi Alam (Clark University)	Fall 2025 & Spring 2025
Introduction to Statistical Analysis (Undergraduate), supervised by Moshi Alam (Clark University)	Fall 2024

Research Assistant

Research assistant to Junfu Zhang, David Cuberes, Jon Denton-Schneider, and Kensuke Suzuki (Clark University)	2021-2024
Research assistant to Qiangyuan Chen (Shanghai University/Renmin University of China) and Yao Luo (University of Toronto)	2018-2021

Referee Services

International Studies of Economics

Selected Awards & Grants

IER Project Research Grant (IERPK2527, PI: Motoaki Takahashi), Hitotsubashi University, Japan	2025-2026
E. C. H. Veendorp Award, Clark University	2024
Sheftel Travel Award, Clark University	2023 & 2025
NSFC Grant (72073093, PI: Qiangyuan Chen), National Natural Science Foundation of China	2021-2024
National Scholarship, Ministry of Education of China	2019
Shanghai Municipal Government Consulting Project Grant (2018-Z-D02, PI: Qiangyuan Chen), Pudong New Area Government, Shanghai	2018
Shanghai Municipal Scholarship, Shanghai Municipal Education Commission	2017

Last updated in October, 2025