

Zeyi Qian

PhD Candidate · Economics · Urban and Trade

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Education

Clark University	Worcester, Massachusetts
PhD in Economics	2026 (Expected)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Unproposed Dissertation: Quantitative Analysis on Spatial Distribution of Firms and International TradeAdvisor: Dr. Junfu Zhang (Chair) and Dr. Kensuke Suzuki	
Clark University	Worcester, Massachusetts
MA in Economics	2023
Shanghai University	Shanghai, China
MA in Economics	2021
University of Toronto	Toronto, Ontario
International Visiting Graduate Student	2020
Shanghai Ocean University	Shanghai, China
BA in Economics	2018

Research Papers

Job Market Paper

Trade Costs, Entry Costs, and the Spatial Distribution of Chinese Manufacturing Firms

with Kensuke Suzuki and Junfu Zhang

Abstract: This paper examines sectoral growth patterns across Chinese provinces during the country's economic takeoff in the early 2000s, following key policy reforms including trade liberalization, infrastructure expansion, business climate improvements, and relaxed rural-to-urban migration restrictions. While coastal regions boomed as the economy integrated globally, particularly spurred by export-oriented processing plants, the significant growth occurring in inland regions during this same period is often overlooked. We develop a spatial general equilibrium model based on the Melitz-Chaney framework to analyze how these factors interact and influence the geographic distribution of economic activity. Our model extends the heterogeneous firm approach to a multi-sector, multi-region setting, incorporating detailed sectoral and regional linkages. Using Chinese data, we calibrate the model and conduct counterfactual simulations to identify the key mechanisms driving regional development. Our results highlight reductions in trade costs intensify competition and deter firm entry, improvements in the local business climate lower entry barriers and foster firm creation. Together, these factors shape China's overall economic growth and regional specialization. Building on this, We quantify the contributions of manufacturing employment expansion, trade cost reductions, and business climate improvements to overall welfare gains. Collectively, our decomposition of real wage growth reveals that selection effects dominate the growth of regional real wages, with these effects being more pronounced in inland regions compared to coastal regions.

In Progress

Scale Effects and Spatial Distribution of Firms: A Quantitative Analysis of Japanese Manufacturing

Trade Shock and Dynamic Labor Allocation

Publications

Zhao, H., *Qian, Z., Guo, Y., and Ye, Y. 2025. How City Size Affects Firm Survival: Evidence from Chinese Enterprise Registration Data. *Applied Economics Letters*, 1–5.

*Qian, Z., Zhang, J., and Chen, Q., 2024. Estimating Round-Tripping FDI from Firm-Level Data in China. *International Studies of Economics*, 1–24.

- Ye, Y., Xu, J., Huang, Z., and Qian, Z. 2025. **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.** *Studies in Science of Science*, 1–18.(in Chinese)
- Chen, Q., Yang, J., and Qian, Z. 2022. **International Twin Cities and Chinese Export Activities.** *Economic Theory and Business Management*, (3), 137-155.(in Chinese)
- Chen, Q., *Qian, Z., Chen, Y., and Shi, Z. 2021. **Promotion Effect of FDI on Enterprise Survival in Host Country—A Discussion on Industry Safety and Market Access of Foreign Investment.** *China Industrial Economics*, (7), 137-155.(in Chinese)
- Qian, Z., Chen, Q., Shi, Z., and Li, X. 2021. **The Man-Bear Race: A New Explanation of Regional Competition for China's High-Speed Rail Stations.** *South China Journal of Economics*, 40(2), 66-83.(in Chinese)

Presentations

- 2025 Annual Meetings of the MEA , **Midwest Economics Association**; 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**
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 & Research

Teaching Assistant

- Spring 2025 ECON 265: Econometrics, supervised by Dr. Moshi Alam (**Clark University**)
- Fall 2024 ECON 160: Intro to Statistical Analysis, supervised by Dr. Moshi Alam (**Clark University**)

Research Assistant

- 2021-2024 Supervised by Dr. Junfu Zhang, Dr. David Cuberes, Dr. Jon Denton-Schneider, and Dr. Kensuke Suzuki (**Clark University**)
- 2018-2021 Supervised by Dr. Qiangyuan Chen (**Shanghai University/Renmin University of China**), and Dr. Yao Luo (**University of Toronto**)

Referee Services

International Studies of Economics

Selected Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

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| 2025-2026 | IER Project Research Grant (IERPK2527, PI: Motoaki Takahashi), Hitotsubashi University, Japan | JPY 500k |
| 2024 | E. C. H. Veendorp Award, Clark University | USD 0.5k |
| 2023/2025 | Sheftel Travel Award, Clark University | USD 1k |
| 2021-2024 | NSFC Grant (72073093, PI: Qiangyuan Chen) , National Natural Science Foundation of China | |
| 2020 | Joint Program Grant for Graduate Students Studying Abroad, Shanghai University | CNY 10k |
| 2018 | Shanghai Municipal Government Consulting Project Grant (2018-Z-D02, PI: Qiangyuan Chen), Pudong New Area Government, Shanghai | |
| 2019 | National Scholarship, Ministry of Education of China | CNY 20k |
| 2017 | Shanghai Municipal Scholarship, Shanghai Municipal Education Commission | CNY 8k |

Language & Skills

Language: Chinese (native), English (fluent)

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