LIXIN TANG

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, Expected May 2015

B.S. Economics, Physics, and Mathematics, Summa cum Laude, Bates College, May 2010

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: International Trade

Secondary: Macroeconomics of Development

DISSERTATION

"Essays on Inequality and International Trade"

Committee: Professor Nuno Limão (Chair), Professor John Haltiwanger, Professor John Shea

JOB MARKET PAPER

"Top Income Inequality, Aggregate Saving and the Gains from Trade"

I study the implications of top income inequality for the gains from trade in a dynamic model. I argue that higher top income inequality among entrepreneurs can increase the gains from trade for workers. In the model, entrepreneurs face uninsurable idiosyncratic productivity risk, and thus save. Since the most productive entrepreneurs have the highest saving rate and are also the ones that export, a reduction in trade costs increases their share of total profits and their savings, which leads to a large increase in the aggregate supply of capital. I calibrate the model using US data. The welfare gain from trade for workers in the model is 6.4%, which is larger than in comparable benchmarks without top income inequality or capital accumulation. While the typical entrepreneur loses because of higher labor costs, aggregate consumption by entrepreneurs increases by 3.6%. Empirically, I find a strong relationship between trade openness and the national saving rate and a weaker relationship between trade openness and the investment rate in a large sample of countries, both consistent with the model.

PUBLICATIONS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

"Childcare, Eldercare, and Labor Force Participation of Married Women in Urban China, 1982–2000." 2011. *Journal of Human Resources*, 46(2): 261–294. (with Margaret Maurer-Fazio, Rachel Connelly and Lan Chen)

"The Impact of E-Commerce on Spatial Consumption Inequality in China," (with Jingting Fan, Weiming Zhu and Ben Zou), Work in progress

"Saving Rate and Openness in China," Work in progress

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for Margaret Maurer-Fazio, Bates College, 2008-2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Introductory Econometrics, University of Maryland, 2012-2014

Teaching Assistant, Microeconomic Theory (PhD. level), University of Maryland, 2012-2013

Teaching Assistant, Methods and Tools of Economics, University of Maryland, 2012-2014

Teaching Assistant, Principle of Microeconomics, University of Maryland, 2010-2011

AWARDS

First Prize Fellowship for Best Third-Year Paper, University of Maryland, 2013
Pass with Distinction, Core Examination in Microeconomics, University of Maryland, 2011
Percy D. Wilkins Mathematics Award, Bates College, 2010
Stangle Family Award in Economics for Most Outstanding Senior Thesis, Bates College, 2010
Charles A. Dana Scholarship, Bates College, 2006-2010
Ministry of Education Scholarship, Singapore, 2002-2005

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

2014 Midwest Economic Theory and International Trade Conference

COMPUTER SKILLS

STATA, Matlab and FORTRAN

LANGUAGES

English (Fluent), Chinese (Native), and Japanese (Proficient)

REFERENCES

Prof. Nuno Limão	University of Maryland	limao@econ.umd.edu	(301) 405-7842
Prof. John Shea	University of Maryland	shea@econ.umd.edu	(301) 405-3491
Prof. John Haltiwanger	University of Maryland	haltiwan@econ.umd.edu	(301) 405-3504