

Jacob Howard

The MITRE Corporation
7515 Colshire Drive
McLean, VA 22102-7539

Email: jacob.b.howard@colorado.edu
Phone: (423)-667-1709
Homepage: jacobhowardecon.github.io

Fields of Research

International Trade, Production Networks, Innovation Economics, and Industrial Organization

Employment

MITRE, 2020-Present

Principal Economist: Commerce Department (2024-Present)

Lead Economist: Transportation Performance and Economic Analysis (2020-2023)

University of Colorado, Boulder 2014-2020

Instructor and Teaching Assistant

Research Assistant: McGuire Center for International Studies

NBER, 2016-2018

Research Assistant, NSF Grant: Trading, Institutions, Product Innovation, and Entrepreneurship

Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Colorado at Boulder, May 2020

Dissertation: Essays on Endogenous Production-Network Formation and the Consequences of Globalization

Primary Advisor: Wolfgang Keller, Committee: Jeronimo Carballo, Keith Maskus, Sergey Nigai

M.A. Economics, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2016

M.A. Economics, University of Memphis, 2014

B.A. Economics, International Studies and Economics, University of Memphis, 2012

Minor: Mandarin; Study Abroad: Fudan University, Shanghai China 2011

Refereed Publications

The Impacts of Intellectual-Property Related Preferential Trade Agreements on Bilateral Patent Applications (2025)

Review of International Economics, vol. 33(2), pages 466-485

Joint with Keith Maskus and William Ridley

Regional Heterogeneity in Environmental Quality: The Role of Firm Production Networks and Trade (2024)

Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, vol. 11(5), pages 1311-1349

Joint with Doyoung Park and William Ridley

Working Papers

Derisking in the Time of Decoupling: U.S. Critical Supply Chains and Reliance on China

Joint with Aspen Underwood

Labor-Market Frictions and Endogenous Production-Network Formation

Text2Trade: A Semantic Search System with Monte Carlo Dropout Uncertainty Quantification for HS Code Retrieval

Joint with Meenu Ravi, Grace Kenneally, and Ari Fleischer

Other Publications

Intellectual Property-Related PTAs and Patenting (2023)
Beyond Trade: How Deep Trade Agreements Shape Non-Trade Outcomes
 CEPR Joint with Keith Maskus and William Ridley

De-Risking U.S. Supply Chains in the Era of Decoupling (2024)
 MITRE Joint with Aspen Underwood

Current Research

Business is in the Air: Air Travel and the Formation of Firm Relationships in the United States
 Joint with Alex Luttmann

The Spatial Propagation of Wage Inequality
 Joint with Sergey Nigai

Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act and Global Trade in Textile Supply Chains
 Joint with Alex Luttmann

Open Grants and Research Projects

Principal Investigator: The Impact of Offshoring and Outsourcing Firm Behaviors on Labor Market Outcomes
 FSRDC Census Project hosted at Georgetown's Massive Data Institute

This project proposes to answer the following questions: What role do supply chains play in shaping wage inequality? How do these supply chains vary by firm productivity levels, and is there a systematic differential response of these supply chains to an international trade shock? If wages are determined by supply chains, this implies that there will be nominal wage consequences for workers in all sectors of the importing economy. How much do changes, due to trade shocks, in firm-level supply-chains spillover into non-import competing sectors? Within all sectors are there heterogeneous responses to trade shocks that vary by firm size and what are the implications of this heterogeneity?

Clearances

Census Special Sworn Status, Department of Defense Top Secret, Department of Homeland Security Top Secret, Federal Aviation Administration Moderate (MBI)

Service

MITRE Technical Economics Seminar, Organizer (2023-Present)

MITRE Economic Research Steering Group (2022-Present)

MITRE External Economics Conference, Co-Organizer and Moderator for Building Resilient Global Supply Chains Session (2023)

MITRE Economics Hiring Committee (2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24)

Recent Conference and Seminar Activities, Including Upcoming

CSIS Federal Statistics For Economic Security (November 2025)-*Roundtable Moderator*

NBER Resilience in Supply Chains Conference (December 2024)-*Panelist*

USITC Office of Economics International Trade Seminar Series (December 2024)-*Presenter*

Southern Economics Association Annual Meeting (November 2024)-*Presenter*

Midwestern International Trade and Economic Theory Conference (October 2024)-*Presenter*

Federal Statistical Research Data Center Annual Conference (September 2024)-*Presenter*

NBER Summer Institute (July 2024)

NBER Corporate Partners Meeting (April 2024)

Society of Government Economists Annual Meeting (April 2024)

North American Empirical Investigations in International Trade Conference (October 2023)-*Discussant*

MITRE Economics Conference (September 2023)-*Moderator*

Midwestern International Trade and Economic Theory Conference (April 2023)-*Presenter*
Washington Area International Trade Symposium (April 2023)
World Bank Deep Trade Agreements Conference (June 2022)-*Presenter*

Awards, Fellowships

MITRE Awards:

Trailblazer Award 2024
Synergist Award 2024
Applause Awards, 2024, 2023, 2021
Spark Awards, 2024, 2023 (3x), 2021 (2x)
Catalyst Award, MITRE Dollar Dominance Project, 2021
Project Recognition Award- Project Redacted, 2021

University of Colorado at Boulder:

Morris E. Garnsey Fellowship in Economics, 2018
Sieglinde Talbott Haller Economics Scholarship, 2017
Leslie Whittington Memorial Fellowship for Excellence in Economics, 2016
Yordon Prize in Microeconomics, 2016

University of Memphis, Presidential Scholarship, 2008-12

Software Skills

Julia, Linux, Matlab, Python, QGIS, R, STATA. Use of several distributed high-performance computing environments

Teaching

University of Colorado, Boulder 2016-2020

Courses Taught: Principles of Microeconomics, Intermediate Microeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics

Personal

Boy Scouts of America: Eagle Scout (2008)

University of Memphis: Sigma Phi Epsilon, University of Memphis (2008, Brother Mentor 2011)

References

Professor Wolfgang Keller
Department of Economics
University of Colorado Boulder
(303)-735-5507
wolfgang.keller@colorado.edu

Professor Jeronimo Carballo
Department of Economics
University of Colorado Boulder
(303)-735-7816
jeronimo.carballo@colorado.edu

Professor Keith Maskus
Department of Economics
University of Colorado Boulder
(303)-492-7588
keith.maskus@colorado.edu

Professor Sergey Nigai
Department of Economics
University of Colorado Boulder
(303)-492-0748
sergey.nigai@colorado.edu