

Jacob Lefler

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| Contact Information | Giannini Hall 236, UC Berkeley jacob.lefler@berkeley.edu jacoblefler.github.io +1-(832)-919-5847 | | |
| Doctoral Studies | University of California, Berkeley PhD, Agricultural and Resource Economics (Expected May 2026) PRIMARY FIELDS: International Trade, Spatial Economics SECONDARY FIELDS: Agricultural Economics, Environmental Economics | | |
| References | <div> <div>Associate Professor Thibault Fally fally@berkeley.edu Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics</div> <div>Assistant Professor Kirill Borusyak k.borusyak@berkeley.edu Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics</div> </div> <div>Professor Andrés Rodríguez-Clare arc@berkeley.edu Department of Economics</div> | | |
| Placement Officers | Professor Sofia Villas-Boas sberto@berkeley.edu +1 (510) 409-4341 | Professor Marco Gonzalez-Navarro marcog@berkeley.edu +1 (510) 390-4720 | Diana Lazo lazo@berkeley.edu +1 (510) 642-3345 |
| Education | Brigham Young University | BS Mathematics, Economics | 2019 |
| Teaching | UC Berkeley | Teaching Assistant, <i>International Trade Undergraduate</i> | 2025 |
| | UC Berkeley | Teaching Assistant, <i>Environmental Economics Undergraduate and Masters</i> | 2021, 2022 |
| Research | <p>“Freight in the Time of Covid: Estimating a Model of US Trucking” (JOB MARKET PAPER)</p> <p>Trade models typically ignore the freight transportation industry. I develop a model of the US trucking industry that can replicate several stylized facts that I document, including inverse and spatial correlations in transportation prices, while remaining tractable enough to be embedded within a trade model and quantified using market-level data. Rather than being treated as fixed and exogenous, trade costs emerge endogenously as the market-clearing prices of the freight transportation industry. I quantify driver supply using instruments based on Covid-era shocks to US container import quantities. Finally, I use a simple calibration of my spatial model to estimate how changes in freight transportation prices affected goods prices and consumer welfare following the onset of Covid, and I find that changes in transport markets were primarily demand-driven.</p> | | |
| Activities | 2024 | Graduate Admissions Committee | |
| | 2022 | Faculty Search Committee | |

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| Prior Employment | UC Berkeley , Research Assistant (Kirill Borusyak) | 2024-2025 |
| | UC Berkeley , Research Assistant (James Sallee) | 2022, 2024 |
| | UC Berkeley , Research Assistant (David Zilberman) | 2020-2021 |
| | Brigham Young University , Research Assistant (Arden Pope) | 2017-2019 |
| Military Service | US Marine Corps Reserve , Logistics Officer | 2022-Present |
| | Platoon Commander, Company Executive Officer | |