

## Jacob Lefler

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<b>Doctoral Studies</b>	University of California, Berkeley PhD, Agricultural and Resource Economics (Expected May 2026)  PRIMARY FIELDS: International Trade, Spatial Economics SECONDARY FIELDS: Agricultural Economics, Environmental Economics		
<b>References</b>	<div> <div>Associate Professor Thibault Fally <a href="mailto:fally@berkeley.edu">fally@berkeley.edu</a> Department of Agricultural &amp; Resource Economics</div> <div>Assistant Professor Kirill Borusyak <a href="mailto:k.borusyak@berkeley.edu">k.borusyak@berkeley.edu</a> Department of Agricultural &amp; Resource Economics</div> </div> <div>Professor Andrés Rodríguez-Clare <a href="mailto:arc@berkeley.edu">arc@berkeley.edu</a> Department of Economics</div>		
<b>Placement Officers</b>	<div>Professor Sofia Villas-Boas <a href="mailto:sberto@berkeley.edu">sberto@berkeley.edu</a> +1 (510) 409-4341</div>	<div>Professor Marco Gonzalez-Navarro <a href="mailto:marcog@berkeley.edu">marcog@berkeley.edu</a> +1 (510) 390-4720</div>	<div>Diana Lazo <a href="mailto:lazo@berkeley.edu">lazo@berkeley.edu</a> +1 (510) 642-3345</div>
<b>Education</b>	<b>Brigham Young University</b>	BS Mathematics, Economics	2019
<b>Teaching</b>	<b>UC Berkeley</b>	Teaching Assistant, <i>International Trade Undergraduate</i>	2025
	<b>UC Berkeley</b>	Teaching Assistant, <i>Environmental Economics Undergraduate and Masters</i>	2021, 2022
<b>Research</b>	<p><b>“Freight in the Time of Covid: A Model of US Trucking” (JOB MARKET PAPER)</b></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 the return-trip effect 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 my model’s key parameters 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.</p>		
<b>Activities</b>	2024	Graduate Admissions Committee	
	2022	Faculty Search Committee	

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