



## 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>						
Associate Professor Thibault Fally <a href="mailto:fally@berkeley.edu">fally@berkeley.edu</a> Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics		Assistant Professor Kirill Borusyak <a href="mailto:k.borusyak@berkeley.edu">k.borusyak@berkeley.edu</a> Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics				
Professor Andrés Rodríguez-Clare <a href="mailto:arc@berkeley.edu">arc@berkeley.edu</a> Department of Economics						
<b>Placement Officers</b>	<u>Professor Sofia Villas-Boas</u> <a href="mailto:sberto@berkeley.edu">sberto@berkeley.edu</a> +1 (510) 409-4341	<u>Professor Marco Gonzalez-Navarro</u> <a href="mailto:marcog@berkeley.edu">marcog@berkeley.edu</a> +1 (510) 390-4720	<u>Diana Lazo</u> <a href="mailto:lazo@berkeley.edu">lazo@berkeley.edu</a> +1 (510) 642-3345			
<b>Education</b>	<b>Brigham Young University</b>	BS Mathematics, Economics	2019			
<b>Teaching</b>	<b>UC Berkeley</b>	Teaching Assistant, <i>International Trade</i> Undergraduate	2025			
	<b>UC Berkeley</b>	Teaching Assistant, <i>Environmental Economics</i> Undergraduate and Masters	2021, 2022			
<b>Research</b>	<b>“Freight in the Time of Covid: Estimating a Model of US Trucking”</b> <b>(JOB MARKET PAPER)</b>  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.					
	<b>“Transportation Prices and Agricultural Value Chains”</b> (In Progress)					

<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		