



Jacob Lefler

Contact Information	Giannini Hall 236, UC Berkeley jacob_lefler@berkeley.edu jaclefler.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	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <u>Associate Professor Thibault Fally</u> fally@berkeley.edu Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics </td><td style="vertical-align: top;"> <u>Assistant Professor Kirill Borusyak</u> k.borusyak@berkeley.edu Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics </td><td style="vertical-align: top;"> </td></tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <u>Professor Andrés Rodríguez-Clare</u> arc@berkeley.edu Department of Economics </td><td style="vertical-align: top;"> </td><td style="vertical-align: top;"> </td></tr> </table>			<u>Associate Professor Thibault Fally</u> fally@berkeley.edu Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics	<u>Assistant Professor Kirill Borusyak</u> k.borusyak@berkeley.edu Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics		<u>Professor Andrés Rodríguez-Clare</u> arc@berkeley.edu Department of Economics		
<u>Associate Professor Thibault Fally</u> fally@berkeley.edu Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics	<u>Assistant Professor Kirill Borusyak</u> k.borusyak@berkeley.edu Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics								
<u>Professor Andrés Rodríguez-Clare</u> arc@berkeley.edu Department of Economics									
Placement Officers	<u>Professor Sofia Villas-Boas</u> sberto@berkeley.edu +1 (510) 409-4341	<u>Professor Marco Gonzalez-Navarro</u> marcog@berkeley.edu +1 (510) 390-4720	<u>Diana Lazo</u> lazo@berkeley.edu +1 (510) 642-3345						
Education	Brigham Young University	BS Mathematics, Economics	2019						
Teaching	UC Berkeley	Teaching Assistant, <i>International Trade</i> Undergraduate	2025						
	UC Berkeley	Teaching Assistant, <i>Environmental Economics</i> Undergraduate and Masters	2021, 2022						
Research	“Freight in the Time of Covid: Estimating a Model of US Trucking” (JOB MARKET PAPER) <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>								
Research in Progress	“Transportation Prices and Agricultural Value Chains” “An Hour Past Paid: The Roles of Time and Money in Determining Trade Costs” with Thibault Fally, John Kadlick, and Andrés Rodríguez-Clare								

Activities	2024	Graduate Admissions Committee	
	2022	Faculty Search Committee	
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		