

## Jacob Lefler

<b>Contact Information</b>	Giannini Hall 236, UC Berkeley <a href="mailto:jacob.lefler@berkeley.edu">jacob.lefler@berkeley.edu</a> <a href="https://jacoblefler.github.io">jacoblefler.github.io</a> +1 (832) 919-5847		
<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>	Professor Sofia Villas-Boas <a href="mailto:sberto@berkeley.edu">sberto@berkeley.edu</a> +1 (510) 409-4341	Professor Marco Gonzalez-Navarro <a href="mailto:marcog@berkeley.edu">marcog@berkeley.edu</a> +1 (510) 390-4720	Diana Lazo <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 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: Estimating 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 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>		
<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	