

Jacob Lefler

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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	“Freight in the Time of Covid: Quantifying A Model of US Trucking” (JOB MARKET PAPER) Trade models typically ignore the freight transportation industry. I develop a model of the US trucking industry that can replicate the stylized facts that I document, namely 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 my quantified model in partial equilibrium to estimate the magnitude of the freight industry’s effects on goods prices and consumer welfare following the onset of Covid.		
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 Platoon Commander, Company Executive Officer	2022-Present