

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	<div>Professor Sofia Villas-Boas sberto@berkeley.edu +1 (510) 409-4341</div>	<div>Professor Marco Gonzalez-Navarro marcog@berkeley.edu +1 (510) 390-4720</div>	<div>Diana Lazo lazo@berkeley.edu +1 (510) 642-3345</div>
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	<p>“Freight in the Time of Covid: A Model of US Trucking” (JOB MARKET PAPER)</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>		
Activities	2024 2022	Graduate Admissions Committee 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