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DOCTORAL STUDIES

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
PhD, Economics, Expected completion June 2024
DISSERTATION: "Essays in International Trade and Macroeconomics"

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE AND REFERENCES

Professor Arnaud Costinot
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Professor Dave Donaldson
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PRIOR EDUCATION

Seoul National University 2018
Bachelor in Economics, Mathematics, and Industrial Engineering
Summa Cum Laude

CITIZENSHIP Republic of Korea **GENDER:** Male

LANGUAGES English (fluent), Korean (native)

FIELDS Primary Fields: International Trade

Secondary Fields: Macroeconomics, Urban Economics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Introduction to Macroeconomics (undergraduate, MIT course 14.02) Teaching Assistant to Professors Martin Beraja, Ricardo Caballero, and James Poterba	2020-22
Microeconomic Theory and Public Policy (undergraduate, MIT course 14.03) Teaching Assistant to Professor Nicolas Lambert	2021
International Economics I (graduate, MIT course 14.581) Teaching Assistant to Professors David Atkin, Arnaud Costinot, and Dave Donaldson	2020

RELEVANT POSITIONS

MIT Trade Lunch organizer	2022-23

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

MIT Department of Economics Fellowship	2018-20
Doctoral Study Abroad Scholarship, Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies	2018-23
Presidential Award, Seoul National University	2018
National Merit Scholarship for Science and Engineering	2011-14

RESEARCH PAPERS

"Sectoral Shocks and Labor Market Dynamics: A Sufficient Statistics Approach" (Job Market Paper) (with Ryungha Oh)

Labor market shocks often have differential effects across sectors, and their dynamic effects depend on how easily workers can switch their sectors over time. We first document that the workers' dynamic sector switching patterns in the data are inconsistent with the canonical dynamic discrete choice model: longer-run sector switching is less frequent than predicted by short-run switching. To reconcile this inconsistency, we incorporate persistent worker heterogeneity a la the general Roy model of self-selection into an otherwise canonical dynamic discrete choice model. Rather than fully specifying and estimating detailed heterogeneity, we propose a novel sufficient statistics approach to construct counterfactual welfare changes and labor reallocation in response to sectoral shocks. This approach requires only knowledge of the steady-state worker flows over different time horizons, which are directly observed in panel data. We apply this methodology to assess the impact of the China trade shock. The results indicate that when we correctly match the dynamic worker flow patterns by allowing worker heterogeneity, the worker reallocation following the China shock is significantly slower, and the negative welfare effects on manufacturing workers are more severe than previously suggested in the literature.

"What Causes Agglomeration of Services? Theory and Evidence from Seoul" (with Ryungha Oh) *Awarded Best Student Paper Prize (2022), by the Urban Economics Association*

Why are economic activities concentrated in space? What are the policy implications of this concentration? And how do we expect it to change in the future? We revisit these classic questions in the context of non-tradable services, such as restaurants and retail, in Seoul. To understand the concentration of services, we first causally identify positive spillovers across service stores. We microfound these spillovers by incorporating the trip-chaining mechanism—whereby consumers make multiple purchases during their services travel—into an otherwise standard quantitative spatial model that endogenously determines the spatial distribution of services. When calibrated to an original survey on trip chaining, this mechanism explains about one-third of the observed concentration. However, unlike standard agglomeration mechanisms, it does not lead to inefficiency or exacerbate welfare inequality. Finally, we show that spatial linkages of services consumption play a crucial role in shaping the impact of the rise of work from home and of delivery services on the distribution of services.

"Persistent Noise, Feedback, and Endogenous Optimism: A Rational Theory of Overextrapolation"

This paper studies a microfounded macroeconomic model where firms learn about economic conditions through noisy information. We make two assumptions about how firms form their expectations—(i) the noise in firms' signals is persistent rather than i.i.d. over time; and (ii) firms receive feedback on their previous forecasts by observing the true economic conditions ex-post. Firms rationally account for the persistence of noise and adjust their interpretations of signals based on the feedback they receive. This process gives rise to a novel mechanism by which optimism arises endogenously, amplifying or dampening the effects of underlying shocks. In particular, when firms are relatively well informed about idiosyncratic shocks, they exhibit a delayed overreaction to aggregate shocks. Strategic complementarity between firms and the resulting higher-order optimism further strengthens our mechanism. Our model provides a unified way to explain the prominent empirical findings in the literature. We can distinguish our model from behavioral theories of overextrapolation by exploiting the difference between the degree of overextrapolation in consensus and individual forecasts.