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Fields	Primary: Development Economics, Political Economy Secondary: Economic History, Applied Microeconomics	
Education	Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University (anticipated) 2022 Dissertation: <i>Essays on the Political Economy of Development</i> Committee: Nancy Qian (Chair), Christopher Udry, Ameet Morjaria, Seema Jayachandran M.A., Economics, Northwestern University 2018 M.Sc. (<i>with distinction</i>), Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science 2016 B.A. (<i>summa cum laude</i>), Economics, University of Zurich 2014	
Fellowships & Awards	Graduate Dissertation Fellowship Distinguished Teaching Assistant	2021 – 2022 2017
Grants	Global Poverty Research Lab (Northwestern), \$2620 and \$1100	
Teaching Experience	Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University Statistical Decision Analysis, Executive MBA (x6) Practical Data Analytics with Advanced Methods, MBA Econometrics, undergraduate (x2) Law and Economics, undergraduate	2017 – 2021
Research Experience	Research Assistant, Prof. Nancy Qian, Northwestern University	2018 – 2021
Refereeing	Explorations in Economic History	
Invited Presentations	NEUDC, Notre Dame (Development Day), University of Zurich (Political Econ Reading Group)	2021
Job Market Paper	“China’s Foreign Aid: Political Determinants, Economic Effects” The efficacy of foreign aid, especially when given to satisfy the objectives of the donor country, is highly controversial. I study this question in the context of Chinese infrastructure aid, which has received much attention from policymakers. I build a novel project and firm-level dataset to identify political determinants of Chinese aid and its economic consequences for recipient countries. I document that when there is local labor unrest in China, contracts for Chinese aid projects are allocated to large state-owned firms in the area, and employment by these firms increases. Connections between these firms and other countries mean that China’s response to domestic unrest affects the allocation of Chinese aid projects to other countries. I exploit the variation in countries’ receipt of aid caused by the timing and spatial variation in local labor unrest in China, together with these connections, to develop an instrument for identifying the causal effects of Chinese aid on recipients. I find large positive effects on GDP, capital formation, consumption, and employment.	

Other Papers

“Chinese Capital Flight to the US Real Estate Market” (with Joe Long)

Wealthy foreign real estate buyers have increased rapidly over the past few decades. Of particular note are those from China; in 2016 alone, Chinese buyers were the source of over 100 billion USD of outflows to real estate markets worldwide. In this paper, we investigate the effect that these wealthy Chinese buyers have on local US housing markets, governments and residents. Using a novel instrument, we demonstrate that an increase in the share of wealthy Chinese buyers in a locality causes an increase in house price growth. As a result of this increased growth, local governments benefit from increased property tax revenues but do not see a drop in sales tax revenues, suggesting that the vacancy rate for Chinese-owned properties is no different from that of counterfactual buyers. A drop in rental prices suggests that wealthy Chinese are more likely to rent out their houses and less likely to move into them.

“State-Building in Multi-ethnic Societies: Origins of National Identity in Tanzania” (with Ruth Carlitz and Ameet Morjaria)

This paper examines the state-building process in an important context: the founding of new, multi-ethnic states in post-colonial Africa. We study the *Ujamaa* reforms in Tanzania in 1970–1981, one of the largest nation-building policy experiments in recent history. The reforms dramatically altered the nature of public education by changing the content of the curriculum and expanding access to schooling. To implement the reforms, the Tanzanian government used a concurrent policy, known as villagization, which forced much of the country’s population to live together in government administrated villages. We combine differences in intensity of villagization across districts with differences across school cohorts, induced by the timing of the policy, to identify the effect of *Ujamaa* education on citizens’ attitudes. We show persistent, positive effects on citizens’ identification with the nation, as measured both by survey responses and ethnic intermarriage. Treated cohorts are also more likely to express positive views for a strong central state and less likely to question state authority.

“The Long-Run Effects of Agricultural Productivity on Conflict, 1400–1900” (with Murat Iyigun, Nathan Nunn and Nancy Qian)

This paper provides evidence of the long-run effects of a permanent increase in agricultural productivity on conflict. We construct a newly digitized and geo-referenced dataset of battles in Europe, the Near East, and North Africa from 1400–1900 CE and examine variation in agricultural productivity due to the introduction of potatoes from the Americas to the Old World after the Columbian Exchange. We find that the introduction of potatoes led to a sizeable and permanent reduction in conflict.

Other Ongoing Work

“Digital Networks and the Diffusion of Political Movements” (with Utsav Manjeer)

“The Party and Private Firms” (with Jaya Wen and Cheryl Wu)

“Agricultural Productivity, Inequality and the Size of Nations” (with M. Iyigun, A. Markevich, N. Qian)

Other Professional Experience

Embassy of Switzerland, Bangkok, Thailand 2015

Academic graduate intern in the diplomatic section (full-time)

Finatris AG, Zurich, Switzerland 2014 – 2015

Project manager in a financial technology start-up (part-time)

Dolder Corporate Finance, Zurich, Switzerland 2012 – 2013

M&A project associate (part-time)

UBS, Zurich, Switzerland 2007 – 2011

International Wealth Management talent development program (full-time)

Languages

German (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate), Thai (beginner)

Programming

Stata, ArcGIS, R (competent), Matlab (basic), Python (basic)

References

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