

MENGWEI LIN

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EDUCATION

Cornell University Applied Economics & Management, Ph.D. Candidate	<i>2018-Present</i>
Harvard University Department of Economics, Exchange Student	<i>2022-2023</i>
University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Economics, Master of Science	<i>2016-2018</i>
Beijing Jiaotong University School of Traffic and Transportation, Bachelor of Engineering	<i>2012-2016</i>

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Public Economics, Political Economy, Firm Behavior

JOB MARKET PAPER

“Local Policies and Firm Location: The Role of Leaders’ Promotion Motives in China”, 2023

Abstract: This paper investigates the impact of local policies on firms’ location decisions and the role of leaders’ promotion motives in intensifying policy competition. Local governments compete by offering city-wide policies, such as lowering tax rates, giving subsidies, providing financial support, or loosening environmental regulations. The gap between de facto and de jure policies is non-negligible, and many of these policies remain unobservable due to limited data accessibility. Even with policy data, current literature models local government competition only on one policy dimension (e.g., taxes or subsidies) and overlooks other policies. To address this, I introduce a novel method to capture the net effect of various policies proposed by local governments. This net effect is estimated from a model of firm location decisions and a spatial border design. The findings indicate a tendency for geographically proximate cities in Jiangsu, China to adopt similar industrial policies. Furthermore, this paper presents a structural framework for understanding local policy competition driven by leaders’ career-advancement incentive systems. Counterfactual exercises demonstrate that leaders with stronger promotion incentives consistently advocate pro-business policies, resulting in increased firm entry into these cities. This study presents the first examination of the consequences of local government competition on firm entry within a developing country context.

WORKING PAPERS

“Peace and Petty Corruption: Evidence from Trucking in Côte d’Ivoire” with Jeremy Foltz and Souleymane Soumahoro, 2023

“Local Governance and Environmental Regulation: Evidence from China’s Urbanization” with Deyu Rao, 2023

“Money, Influence (and Death) in U.S. Politics” with Marco Battaglini, Valerio Leone Sciabolazza, Eleonora Patacchini, 2023

“A Tax-Shaped Retail Landscape” with Feng Chi, Limin Fang, Nathan Yang, 2023

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Adam Smith Fellowship	<i>2023-2024, Mercatus Center</i>
EAP C.V. Starr Fellowship	<i>2024, Cornell</i>
Adlerbert Graduate Fellowship	<i>2023, Cornell</i>
Graduate School Fellowship	<i>2022-2023, Cornell</i>
Cornell Laidlaw Scholars Graduate Mentor Fellowship	<i>2022, Cornell</i>
Cornell Center for Teaching Innovation (CTI) Graduate Fellowship	<i>2021, Cornell</i>
Dyson “Graduate Teaching Assistant - Outstanding Service” Award	<i>2020, Cornell</i>
First Prize, 13th “Jinshixuan Cup” Innovation Contest	<i>2015, BJTU</i>
Outstanding Student Leader Award	<i>2015, BJTU</i>
First-class Scholarship for Academic Excellence	<i>2014, BJTU</i>

GRANTS

Collaborator, Local Governance and Environmental Regulation	<i>2023-2025</i>
Research Grants Council, Early Career Scheme	<i>HK\$ 535,443</i>

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

- 2023: Harvard University (Graduate Student Workshop in Political Economy and Rational Choice, Political Economy Tea)
- 2022: AEA, University of Oxford (Center for the Study of African Economics), CEGA (Working Group in African Political Economy), Harvard University (Econ and Social Policy Grad Workshop, Graduate Student Workshop in Environmental Economics)
- 2021: International Growth Centre (the BREAD Conference on the Economics of Africa), SEA, Cornell University (Emerging Markets Research Day)
- 2020: Boston University (Mentoring Workshop), Cornell University (Labor Work in Progress Seminar, Development Microeconomics Graduate Research Seminar)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

TA: NCC5020/NCCY5020 Microeconomics for Management (MBA)	<i>2022 Summer, Cornell</i>
Instructor: CICER Winter Camp - Public Economics Research Group	<i>2022 Winter, Cornell</i>
TA: AEM4120 Computational Methods for Management and Economics	<i>2021 Fall, Cornell</i>
Head TA: AEM2420 Marketing for Dyson Majors	<i>2021, 2022 Spring, Cornell</i>
Head TA: AEM2400 Marketing for Non-majors	<i>2020 Fall, Cornell</i>
TA: AEM7020/ECON6115 Game Theory (PhD)	<i>2020 Spring, Cornell</i>
TA: AEM4110 Introduction to Econometrics	<i>2019 Fall, Cornell</i>
Tutor: MATH217 Calculus with Algebra and Trigonometry II	<i>2017 Fall, UW-Madison</i>

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee: Regional Science and Urban Economics, Journal of Economic Geography
Ad-hoc Reviewer: STAARS Fellowship

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

President: Community-Based Project Evaluation Group	<i>2022-2023, Cornell</i>
Director of Outreach: Community-Based Project Evaluation Group	<i>2020-2022, Cornell</i>
Treasurer: AEM Graduate Student Association	<i>2021-2022, Cornell</i>
Internship: Tesla, Inc.	<i>2016, Beijing</i>

OTHERS

Skills	Stata, R, Matlab, Python, QGIS, C Programming, Latex, 3DS Max, AutoCAD
Interests	Photography, Dancing(Jazz, Latino), Painting, Swimming