

DAVID QIHANG WU

Phone number: (510) 703-2770 | Email: qihangwu@berkeley.edu

Website: <http://qihangwu.com>

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

Department of Economics
530 Evans Hall, #3880
Berkeley, CA 94720-3880

DESIRED RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS:

PRIMARY

Development Economics
Labor Economics

SECONDARY

Political Economy
Personnel Economics

FIELDS OF CONCENTRATION:

Development Economics, Labor Economics

DISSERTATION TITLE: "Essays on Firm Hiring in Ethiopia"

Expected Date of Completion: May 2024

Principal Advisor: Professor Edward Miguel and Christopher Walters

Other References: Professors Supreet Kaur and Benjamin Schoefer

PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES:

Peking University

DEGREE

B.A. and B.S.

DATE

2017

FIELD

Economics and Applied Mathematics

JOB MARKET PAPER:

"Search Frictions, Belief Formation, and Firm Hiring in Ethiopia" (with Sam Wang)

Abstract: How do search frictions affect firms' hiring decisions? We conduct a randomized control trial on 799 private firms with an active vacancy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and leverage a new type of employment agencies to increase the number of college applicants for a subset of firms. We find that treated firms are 17.5% more likely to fill the vacancies within one month, but do not hire more workers from the employment agencies. Instead, treated firms become less optimistic about the productivity of college graduates. For those requesting college graduates at the baseline, treated firms are significantly less likely to hire a college graduate but more likely to hire a non-college worker, potentially because firms do not observe signals of high productivity from the college applicants. We find suggestive evidence of increasing net profit despite lower qualifications of the hired workers. Our findings demonstrate that search frictions distort firm hiring through belief formation of the labor market, an important but understudied barrier to firm growth in developing countries.

PUBLICATION:

- "Monopoly of Taxation Without a Monopoly of Violence: The Weak State's Trade-offs from Taxation" (with S. Henn, C. M. Mugaruka, M. Ortiz, and R. Sanchez de la Sierra, *Review of Economic Studies*, forthcoming)

OTHER WORKING PAPERS:

- "Pro-Social Determinants of Violent Collective Action: Evidence from Participation in Militias in Eastern Congo" (with G. Marchais, C. M. Mugaruka, and R. Sanchez de la Sierra, reject and resubmit at *Journal of Political Economy*)
- "Misperceptions of Career Ladder and Turnover: Evidence from Ethiopian Manufacturing Workers" (with M. Lauletta)

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS:

- "Ethiopian Factory: Effect of Managerial Practices of Chinese Firms on Ethiopian Workers" (with S. Ayalew and M. Ortiz)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

RESEARCH:

Research Assistant, Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley (Summer 2018 – Winter 2019)

Empirical data research with Professor R. Sanchez de la Sierra on violent conflicts in Eastern Congo, participation in popular militias, and effects of military actions on violence and welfare

TEACHING:

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, UC Berkeley (Fall 2018 – Fall 2021)

Introduction to Economics, Intermediate Microeconomics, Undergraduate Topics in Economic Research, Graduate-level Microeconomics (Game Theory)

Teaching Assistant, Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley (Fall 2022)

MBA-level Data and Decision

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING:

Co-organizer, Development and Political Economics SF Bay Area PhD Student Conference (2020)

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS:

2023	NEUDC Conference, University of San Francisco, UC Berkeley Development Seminar, Advances with Field Experiments Conference, EUDC Student Conference, Pacific Conference for Development Economics
2022	J-PAL Middle East and North Africa, Annual Africa Evidence Summit, ASSA Annual Meeting
2020	ASSA Annual Meeting
2019	Pacific Conference for Development Economics, UC Berkeley Political Economy Seminar

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:

2023	Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$30,000), ROCCA Dissertation Fellowship (\$10,000), UC Berkeley Summer Travel Grant (\$4,090)
2022	Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, Small Grant from International Growth Center (£19,952), Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries Exploratory Research Grant (£39,801)
2021	Center for Effective Global Action Challenge Grant (\$13,200), ROCCA Pre-dissertation Fellowship (\$6,000), The Weiss Fund (\$11,300), UC Berkeley Summer Travel Grant (\$4,500)
2020	Center for Effective Global Action Challenge Grant (\$10,000), Strandberg Fund at UC Berkeley (\$21,000)
2019	Center for Effective Global Action Travel Grant (\$2,800)

OTHER INFORMATION:

Languages:	English (fluent), Cantonese, Mandarin (native), Japanese (intermediate), Spanish, French, Amharic (basic)
Citizenship:	China