Ryu Matsuura

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Education

Northwestern University   2019–*present*
  Ph.D. in Economics

Northwestern University   2020
  M.A. in Economics

Colby College   2017
  B.A. in Economics (*Honors & Distinction*) and Mathematical Science (*Distinction*), *Summa Cum Laude*

  <u>Visit:</u> University of Oxford (2015-16), Imperial Business School (2024)

Job Market Paper

Political Implications of Trade Liberalization: Evidence from India (with Sebastian Jävervall and Roza Khoban)

In recent decades, many developing countries have integrated into the global economy through trade reforms. However, the gains from trade liberalization have been unevenly distributed among different economic and social groups. This paper examines how adverse economic shocks, induced by trade liberalization, influenced voting behavior and political representation among marginalized groups in India. Using exogenous variation in regional exposure to tariff reductions from India's 1990s trade liberalization and constructing a novel dataset that links politicians to social communities, we establish causal estimates of the economic and political effects of trade reforms. Our findings reveal that trade liberalization caused a relative decline in consumption and earnings for marginalized workers. In response, these groups increased their political engagement, which resulted in higher vote shares and representation for marginalized politicians, while non-marginalized group politicians experienced a corresponding decline. We show that these political effects were most pronounced in districts with a significant population share of marginalized groups, suggesting that economic grievances fueled a political backlash. Furthermore, we provide evidence that a redistributive public policy mitigated these political changes, thereby supporting the economic grievances hypothesis.

Working Papers

Harnessing Satellite Data to Improve Social Assistance Targeting in the Eastern Caribbean (with Sophia Chen, Flavien Moreau, and Joana Pereira)

Prioritizing populations most in need of social assistance is an important policy decision. In the Eastern Caribbean, social assistance targeting is constrained by limited data and the need for rapid support in times of large economic and natural disaster shocks. We leverage recent advances in machine learning and satellite imagery processing to propose an implementable strategy in the face of these constraints. We show that local well-being can be predicted with high accuracy in the Eastern Caribbean region using satellite data and that such predictions can be used to improve targeting by reducing aggregation bias, better allocating resources across areas, and proxying for information difficult to verify.

Political (Mis)selection: The Role of Historical Institutions (with Shubhro Bhattacharya and Utsav Manjeer)

Is there a persistent impact of historical institutions on the selection of "bad" politicians? In this paper, we document the nuanced consequences of history on modern adverse political selection using variations in colonial land tenure systems during British rule in India. Politicians with criminal charges are significantly more likely to run for office, and win elections, in areas where extractive landlords historically held substantial property rights. Corrupt politicians who experience disproportionately large private financial gains in office, however, are significantly more likely to be in areas where individual cultivators historically held property rights. Our analysis establishes that these estimates are not biased by endogeneity concerns. Rather, a plausible mechanism indicates a comparative advantage for criminal politicians in the conflictual electoral environment of landlord areas. The relatively less competitive elections in non-landlord areas, instead, are susceptible to elite capture and subsequent wealth accumulation via corporate connections by politicians.

Publications

Development Research at High Geographic Resolution: An Analysis of Night Lights, Firms, and Poverty in India Using the SHRUG Open Data Platform (with Sam Asher, Toby Lunt, and Paul Novosad), *World Bank Economic Review* (2021)

Shifted Baselines Reduce Willingness to Pay for Conservation (with Loren McClenachan, Shah Payal, and Sahan Dissanayake), *Frontiers in Marine Science* (2018)

Work in Progress

Market Integration and Cost of Borders in Africa (with Robin Burgess, Ameet Morjaria, and Gerard Padró i Miquel)

Weather Shocks and Production Outcomes of Firms in Uganda (with Anton Reinicke and Yasuka Tateishi)

Research Experience

International Monetary Fund — 2023
Summer Intern in Western Hemisphere Department

Northwestern University — 2022-2023
Research Assistant for Professor Ameet Morjaria

Development Data Lab — 2017-2019
Research Associate

Teaching Experience

Northwestern University
Introduction to Microeconomics — 2023

Colby College
Statistics for Economics — 2017
Microeconomic Theory — 2015

Presentations

2024	4th Early Career Workshop in Quantitative Political Economy, 6th QMUL Economics and Finance Workshop for PhD & Post-doctoral Students, Lewis Lab Graduate Student Workshop
2023	Pathways to Development Conference
2022	Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics, European Meeting of Urban Economics Association, Infra4Dev Conference
2017	Maine Economic Conference
2016	Heartland Environmental and Resource Economic Workshop

Grants, Scholarship, & Awards

2023	Weiss Fund, with Anton Reinicke and Yasuka Tateishi ($10,000)
	International Growth Centre Small Research Grant, with Anton Reinicke and Yasuka Tateishi (£6,000)
	Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries Exploratory Research Grant, with Anton Reinicke and Yasuka Tateishi (£10,000)
2021-2024	Japan Student Service Organization Scholarship
2019-2021	Japan-IMF Scholarship
2017	Breckenridge Prize (highest GPA among senior economic majors)
	Phi Beta Kappa (top 9% of senior class)
2016	Economics Department Prize for Junior with Highest GPA
	Leslie Dougherty Biddle '89 and George Biddle Fund for International Service Learning, Internships, and Research

Refereeing

World Bank Economic Review

Skills

Programming:	Python (advanced), R (intermediate), SQL (beginner), HTLM/CCS (beginner)
Software:	MATLAB (advanced), Stata (advanced), QGIS (advanced)
Tools:	Git/Github, Unit Shell, VS Code, Google Maps API, OpenAI API, Micosoft Office

Professional Activities

2020-2023	Northwestern University Economics Ph.D. Mentorship Program
2021	Northwestern University Development Lunch Seminar Organizer