

SHANON HSUAN-MING HSU

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Education

University of Chicago , Ph.D. & Postdoctoral Scholar in Economics	<i>2018–2025 (Expected)</i>
Columbia University , M.A. Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences	<i>2014–2016</i>
National Taiwan University , B.S/A. Chemical Engineering & Economics	<i>2008–2013</i>

References

Professor Richard Hornbeck (Co-chair) University of Chicago Booth School of Business richard.hornbeck@chicagobooth.edu (202) 494-0722	Professor Oeindrila Dube (Co-chair) University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy odube@uchicago.edu (773) 702-8400
Professor Jonathan Dingel University of Chicago Booth School of Business jdingel@chicagobooth.edu (773) 834-5458	Professor Michael Dinerstein Duke University Department of Economics michael.dinerstein@duke.edu (773) 702-8400

Research and Teaching Fields

Primary:	Spatial Economics, Development Economics
Secondary:	Economic History, Political Economy

Job Market Paper

Coercive Growth: Forced Resettlement and Ethnicity-Based Agglomeration

Abstract: How do social divisions affect the benefits of agglomeration? While the clustering of people can enhance productivity through local and social interactions, divisions such as ethnic tension and segregation may limit these gains. To answer this question, this paper examines an ethnic-based resettlement program that forcibly relocated 600,000 rural Chinese into compact villages in 1950s British Malaya. I find that areas with higher resettlement had persistently higher population densities and concentrations of Chinese, driven by both the program's direct impact and internal migration. Decades later, these areas became wealthier, more industrialized, and exhibited greater labor market specialization. However,

the economic benefits primarily accrued to the Chinese, while other groups saw only marginal gains when geographically integrated with the Chinese and working in non-agricultural sectors. To assess the overall impacts, I estimate a quantitative spatial model that allows local agglomeration externalities to vary by sector and ethnic composition. While the resettlement increased aggregate output, the gains were insufficient to offset the welfare losses from the program's coercive nature.

Working Papers

Gaining Steam: Incumbent Lock-in and Entrant Leapfrogging (with Richard Hornbeck, Anders Humlum, and Martin Rotemberg) Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of Political Economy*

Abstract: We examine the long transition from water to steam power in US manufacturing, focusing on early users of mechanical power: lumber and flour mills. Digitizing Census of Manufactures manuscripts for 1850-1880, we show that as steam costs declined, manufacturing activity grew faster in counties with less waterpower potential. This growth was driven by steam powered entrants and agglomeration, as water powered incumbents faced switching barriers from sunk costs. Estimating a dynamic model of entry and steam adoption, we find that the interaction of switching barriers and high fixed costs creates a quantitatively important and socially inefficient drag on technology adoption.

Work in Progress

Urban Planning in Colonial Taiwan

Affirmative Industrial Policy and Structural Transformation of Malaysia

Awards, Scholarships, and Grants

Becker Friedman Institute Data Acquisition Grants (\$10,000)	2023
University of Chicago Data Acquisition Grant (\$3,000)	2023
Pearson Institute Research and Innovation Fund (\$16,200)	2022, 2023
Development Economics Research Fund (\$15,000)	2022
University of Chicago Social Sciences Division Fellowship	2018–2024

Teaching Experience

Introduction to Development Economics (Undergraduate)	TA for Prof. Vasudevan	2022
Introduction to Econometrics (Undergraduate)	TA for Prof. Vasudevan	2022
The Elements of Economic Analysis II (Undergraduate)	TA for Prof. Quineche	2022
Applied Microeconomics in Economic History (Graduate)	TA for Prof. Hornbeck	2022
Econometrics (Undergraduate)	TA for Prof. Dobronyi	2021
Microeconomics (MBA)	TA for Prof. Hornbeck	2020
Econometrics (Undergraduate)	TA for Prof. Bertanha	2019

Research Experience and Other Employment

Research Assistant for Richard Hornbeck and Anders Humlum, University of Chicago	2020–2021
Research Assistant for Dave Donaldson and Dina Pomeranz, University of Zürich	2016–2018
Research Assistant for Brendan O’Flaherty, Columbia University	2015–2016
Research Assistant for Melissa Dell, Harvard University	2015

Professional Experience

Conferences	<i>NEUDC 2024, Mountain West Economic History Conference 2023</i>
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Additional Information

Citizenship	Taiwan
Programming Skills	R, Julia, Matlab, STATA
Languages	Mandarin Chinese (Native), English (Fluent)