

Sheng "Charles" Cai

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

July 2023 – City University of Hong Kong
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Finance

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, Yale University, 2023

M.A. Economics, CEMFI, 2016

B.A. Economics, *First Class Honours*, The University of Hong Kong, 2014

RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Trade, Economic Growth

PUBLICATIONS

"Multinational Production, Technology Diffusion and Economic Growth" (with Wei Xiang), *Journal of International Economics*, 2025.

WORKING PAPERS

"Mechanics of Spatial Growth" (with Lorenzo Caliendo, Fernando Parro, and Wei Xiang)

CONFERENCE AND PRESENTATIONS

2025 Central University of Finance and Economics, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, International SPACE Workshop at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, NBER East Asian Seminar on Economics⁺, Singapore Management University

2024 AMSS, Chinese Academy of Sciences, CityU Conference on International Economics⁺, China International Conference in Macroeconomics at CUHK⁺

2023 Chinese University of Hong Kong, AMES Singapore, SED Cartagena, Penn State New Faces Conference, Chinese University of Hong Kong (Shenzhen), North Carolina State University, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, City University of Hong Kong

2022 Peking University NSD

+ : *Discussant*; * : *Scheduled*

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Refereeing

American Economic Review, Journal of International Economics, Review of World Economics

Paper Discussions

- 2025 "A Theory of International Official Lending" (by Qing Liu, Zanhui Liu, and Vivian Yue), NBER EASE
2024 "Third-Country Effects of U.S. Immigration Policy" (by Agostina Brinatti and Xing Guo), CICM
"Rise and Fall of Empires in the Industrial Era: A Story of Shifting Comparative Advantages" (by Roberto Bonfatti and Kerem Coşar), CityUHK Conference on International Economics

RESEARCH GRANT

City University of Hong Kong. Startup grant. PI (HK\$ 300,000)

REG-Small Scale CityU 7020134 PI (HK\$ 80,000)

RGC-ECS 9048351 (HK\$ 334,482)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

City University of Hong Kong

Advanced Macroeconomics (EF8072, Ph.D. Level)

International Finance (EF4471, EF5406)

International Trade (EF4473)

Yale University (Teaching Assistant)

Introduction to Game Theory, TA for Zvika Neeman

Introduction to Data Analysis and Econometrics, TA for Guillermo Noguera

General Equilibrium Theory, TA for John Geanakoplos

Introductory Macroeconomics, TA for Samuel Kortum and Aleh Tsyvinski

International Economics, TA for Peter Schott

Monetary Policy, TA for William English

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

2019 IADB, Short term consultant

2018 Princeton Initiative

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2021 University Dissertation Fellowship

2016-2021 Doctoral Fellowship, Cowles Foundation Fellowship

2014-2016 Fundación ICO Scholarship

2013 C.V. Starr Scholarship

LANGUAGES

Mandarin (native), English (proficient), Cantonese (fair), Spanish (fair)

Updated: August 2025