

YUAN ZI

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
THE GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2021 - present	Assistant Professor, The Geneva Graduate Institute (IHEID) (Maternity Leave: Spring 2023)
2021 - 2024	Research Associate, Department of Economics, University of Oslo
2020 - 2021	Senior Researcher, Department of Economics, University of Zurich
2017 - 2021	Assistant Professor (non-tenured), Department of Economics, University of Oslo

AFFILIATIONS AND EDITORIAL

2019 - present	Research Affiliate, Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR)
2021 - present	Editorial Board, Journal of Economic Geography
2025 - present	Associate Editor, China Economic Review

EDUCATION

2012 - 2017	Ph.D. in International Economics, The Geneva Graduate Institute (IHEID)
2012 - 2014	Swiss Program for Beginning Doctoral Students, Study Center Gerzensee
2010 - 2012	M.A. in International Economics, IHEID
2006 - 2010	B.A. in Economics, Renmin University of China

ACADEMIC VISITS

2014 - 2015	Visiting Fellow, Department of Economics, MIT
2024	Visiting Fellow, Antai College, Shanghai Jiaotong University
2025	Visiting Professor, BI Norwegian Business School

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Refereed publications

“Local Corporate Taxes and the Geography of Foreign Multinationals” (with Jianpeng Deng, Chong Liu, Zi Wang)
Forthcoming, *Review of Economics and Statistics*

“Trade From Space: Shipping Networks and The Global Implications of Local Shock” (with Andreas Moxnes, Inga Heiland and Karen Helene Ulltveit-Moe)
Forthcoming, *Review of Economics and Statistics*

“Trade Liberalization and the Great Labor Reallocation”
International Economic Review, 2025, Vol. 66, Issue2, pp. 933-963

"Made and created in China: the role of processing trade" (with Zhiyuan Chen and Aksel Erbahar)
The Scandinavian Journal of Economics, 2025, Vol. 127, Issue 2, pp. 390-426

“A Cost-Benefit Analysis of R&D and Patents: Firm-level Evidence from China” (with Zhiyuan Chen and Jie Zhang)
European Economic Review, 2021, Vol. 133, 103633

“Trade Costs, Global Value Chains and Economic Development”
Journal of Economic Geography, 2020, Vol. 20, Issue 1, pp. 249–291

“Cascading Trade Protection: Evidence from the US” (joint with Aksel Erbahar)
Journal of International Economics, 2017, vol. 108, pp. 274-299

Chapter in books

“Trade Liberalization and the Hukou System of the People’s Republic of China: How Migration Frictions Can Amplify the Unequal Gains from Trade” (ed) Marc Bacchetta and Matthias Helble *Trade Adjustment in Asia: Past Experiences and Lessons Learned*, ADBI-WTO joint publication, 2019

Research papers

“Sparse Production Networks” (with Andrew Bernard)

“Empowered Young Women: Trade Liberalization and Women’s Family Decisions in China” (with Difei Ouyang and Weidi Yuan)

“Local Trade Wars” (with Wei Li, Bing Qiu and Zi Wang)
Previously circulated as "Armington Elasticities and the Third-Country Effects of Trade Wars."

“Two Decades of China’s Industrial Subsidies” (with Shuhui Xiang and Xinran Yin)

Selected work in progress

“A Thirst for Silver: Trade Disruption, Currency Shortage, and the Institutional Cause of Riots” (with Ting Chen, Jianan Li, Chong Pang)

“Educating like China” (with Federica Coelli, Difei Ouyang and Weidi Yuan)

"Justice for Sale: Does U.S. IP Litigation Favor America First?" (with Roger So Yu)

"When Infrastructure Adapts: The Developmental Returns to Flood Risk Reduction" (with Xi Kang and Xinran Yin)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Refereeing

Econometrica, Review of Economics and Statistics, American Economic Journal: Micro, Journal of International Economics, International Economic Review, Journal of Development Economics, Canadian Journal of Economics, European Economic Review, European Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Economic Geography, Review of International Economics, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, World Economy, Review of World Economics, China Economic Review, Economic Development and Cultural Change, China Journal of Economic Research

Evaluator of research proposals

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

Seminars and conferences organization

2021-present Scientific Committee, Geneva Trade and Development Workshop (GTDW)

Other academic service

2021-2025	Placement officer of PhD Students, Geneva Graduate Institute
2024	Recruitment committee, Geneva Graduate Institute (Pierre du Bois Chair)
2017	Recruitment committee, University of Oslo

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

2026 (scheduled)	Paris School of Economics (Paris Trade Seminar), University of Lausanne, Peking University, Tsinghua University, LMU Munich (Center for Economic Studies), University of Vienna, University of Düsseldorf
2025	University of Nottingham, University College Dublin, BI Norwegian Business School, Villars Workshop on International Trade and Trade Policy*, CEPR-Kiel-Tübingen Conference on Geoeconomics (Discussant), Kiel-Göttingen-CEPR China Conference, Globalization, Shipping and Trade Workshop at Paris School of Economics

2024	Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Zhejiang University, HKU-UNSW-FID, World Trade Institute, CEPR ERWIT ¹ , NOTIS*, Kiel-Göttingen-CEPR China Conference, ETSG, FIW-Workshop in Linz, CEPR-WB-BI Conference, CEPR Paris Symposium*
2023	NBER Summer Institute*, University of Oslo, CEPR ERWIT*, Nanjing University International Symposium (Keynote), Liaoning University, NOTIS, Local GTDW
2022	London School of Economics and Political Science, Dartmouth College, NBER Summer Institute*, Aarhus University, Osaka University, ILT Kobe University, ETSG (Keynote), Local GTDW, UEA 2022 London, International Conference of China Development Studies, Nanjing University
2021	NBER Summer Institute (Discussant), GEP/CEPR Trade and International Production Networks Workshop, Workshop on International Economic Networks (WIEN), Jinan University, SUFE&PKU Trade Workshop, FREIT ITO, Stavanger University
2020	The University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), UCL GVC workshop, CEPR WeAre, EUA Annual Meeting
2019	CEPR labor and urban meeting, WTO-GTDW, Lancaster University
2018	Halle Institute for Economic Research, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics
2017	University of Southern California, University of California San Diego, National University of Singapore, University of Lausanne, IESE Business School, University of Oslo, Aarhus University, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Rhône Spatial Economics Workshop, Workshop on International Trade and Investment (SWUFE), ICID/IZA/Renmin University/UCW Workshop on Labor Markets in Transition, Central University of Finance and Economics, University of International Business and Economics, ELSNIT Conference, Workshop on International Production Networks at the Erasmus University, ADBI-IADB-WTO conference, AEA Annual Meeting
2016	Kiel Institute, Geneva Trade and Development Workshop (WTO-GTDW), Gerzensee Alumni Conference, European Trade Study Group Annual Conference (ETSG), Annual Congress of the European Economic Association (EEA), The International Input-Output Association (IIOA) Conferences, China Meeting of the Econometric Society, Annual Congress of the Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics (SSES), The Graduate Institute BBL Seminar (IHEID), Research Workshop on International Trade in Villars

PRIZES AND GRANTS

Research grant

2025-2026	Seed Money Grant
2022-2023	Seed Money Grant

¹* indicates presentation by a coauthor or participation only.

2021-2022 Seed Money Grant

Awards

2016 RoWE Prize for Young Economists for the paper “Trade Liberalization and the Great Labor Reallocation”

2022 First Prize, the 8th China Public Finance Conference for the paper “Local Corporate Taxes and the Geography of Foreign Multinationals”

2023 Third Prize, Camphor Finance and Economics Conference for the paper “Empowered Young Women: Trade Liberalization and Women’s Family Decisions in China”

TEACHING

At the IHEID:

2021-present - Microeconomics

2021-present - International Trade II

2021-present - The China Syndrome: Modern Reforms in China’s Economy

2024-present - Frontier Research on Trade and Multinational Activities

At University of Oslo (earlier teaching):

2022 - International Trade [guest teaching]

2018 - International Trade

2019 - International Trade [seminar]

2020 - International Trade [seminar]

SUPERVISION

Current PhD supervision at Geneva Graduate Institute (starting year in parentheses)

First advisor: Karolina Wilczynska (2021), Yu So (2023), Shuhui Xiang (2023), Xinran Yin (2025)

Co-advisor: Xi Kang (2022)

Member of PhD committees (non-supervised theses - completion year in parentheses)

Giulia Sabbadini (Graduate Institute, 2021), Linnea Lorentzen (BI Norwegian Business School, 2023), Taehoon Lee (Graduate Institute, 2024), Carolina Lemos Rêgo (Graduate Institute, scheduled)

Supervised researcher under BCC programme (completion year in parentheses)

Jose Pulido (Banco de la República-Central Bank of Colombia, 2022)

Supervised Master theses (completion year in parentheses)

Advisor: Geoffrey David Hilton (2023), Yu So (2023), Shuhui Xiang (2023), Hanxiao Zhong (2023), Daegan Keillor Roberson Kingery (2023), Bharadwaj Tridisha (2024), Mengyao Yang (2024), Yin Xinran (2024),

Bhatia Epsa Diya (2025), Cui Xinyuan (2025), Keppler Michelle Joan (2025), Lin Cheng (2025), Long Ruiou (2025)

Second Reader: Ólafía Kolbrún Gestsdóttir (2022), Lisa Caberlotto (2022), Yi Yu (2022), Odil Abdusattarov (2024), Safiyyah Oladepo (2024), Rithika Devarakonda (2024), Sichang Yu (2025), David Jonas Bohnenberger (2025), Sara Ferrari (2025), Di Wang(2025)

PERSONAL

Born: November 7th, 1988

Citizenship: Chinese

One child, born in 2023

Languages: English (proficient), Chinese (native), French (basic), Norwegian (basic)