

YUAN ZI

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE GENEVA
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2021 - present	Assistant Professor, The Graduate Institute Geneva (IHEID) (Parental 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, 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 Graduate Institute Geneva (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
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RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Refereed publications

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

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

“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 Liberalization and the Great Labor Reallocation”

Forthcoming, International Economic Review

"Made and created in China: the role of processing trade" (with Zhiyuan Chen and Aksel Erbahar)

Forthcoming, The Scandinavian Journal of Economics

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

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

Accepted, *Review of Economics and Statistics*

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

Revise and resubmit, *Review of Economics and Statistics*

“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, Qiu Bing and Wang Zi)

Previously circled as "Armington Elasticities and the Third-Country Effects of Trade Wars."

“Five Facts About China’s Industrial Subsidies: 2001 to 2022” (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)

“Wealth Inequality in Space” (with Andreas Moxnes)

"R&D Subsidies in Production and Knowledge Networks" (with Chenran Liu, Chong Liu, and Wang Zi)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Refereeing

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

Evaluator of research proposals

SNF

Seminars and conferences organization

2021-present Co-organizer, Geneva Trade and Development Workshop (GTDW)

Other academic service

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

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

2025 University of Nottingham (scheduled), CEPR-Kiel-Tübingen Conference on Geoeconomics (scheduled)
2024 Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Zhejiang University, World Trade Institute, CEPR ERWIT¹, Kiel-Göttingen-CEPR China Conference, FIW-Workshop in Linz, CEPR-WB-BI Conference on Trade, value chains and financial linkages in the global economy, CEPR Paris Symposium*
2023 University of Oslo, Nanjing University, Liaoning University, NOTIS, Local GTDW, NBER Summer Institute*
2022 Osaka U, ILT Kobe, LSE, Aarhus U, Dartmouth College, Local GTDW, UEA 2022 London, International Conference of China Development Studies, NBER Summer Institute*, Nanjing University, ETSG

¹* indicates presentation by a coauthor or participation only.

2021	IESR Jinan University, SUFE&PKU Trade Workshop, FREIT ITO, GEP/CEPR Trade and International Production Networks Workshop, NBER Summer Institute (Discussant), Workshop on International Economic Networks (WIEN), Stavanger University
2020	UCL GVC workshop, CEPR WeAre, EUA Annual Meeting, HKU, HK Polytechnic
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	IESE, University of Oslo, Aarhus U, USC, UCSD, NUS, University of Lausanne, 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
2015	The Graduate Institute BBL Seminar (IHEID)
2014	Research in International Economics and Finance (RIEF) Meeting, The International Input-Output Association (IIOA) Conference

PRIZES AND GRANTS

Research grant

2021-2022	Seed Money Grant
2022-2023	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 Graduate Institute Geneva (starting year in parentheses)

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

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 Master theses (year in parentheses)

Advisor: Geoffrey David Hilton (2023), Yu So (2023), Shuhui Xiang (2023), Hanxiao Zhong (2023), Dae-gan 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)

PERSONAL

Born: November 7th, 1988

Citizenship: Chinese

One child, born in 2023

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

Last updated: February 25, 2025