

BROWN UNIVERSITY

Placement Director: Toru Kitagawa

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Education

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, Brown University

2016-present

Expected Completion Date: May 2023

Thesis Title: “Essays on Economic Geography, Environment, and Development”

References

Professor **Andrew Foster**

Department of Economics, Brown University

afoster@brown.edu

(401) 863-2537

Professor **Matthew Turner**

Department of Economics, Brown University

matthew_turner@brown.edu

(401) 863-9331

Professor **Daniel Björkegren**

Department of Economics, Brown University

danbjork@brown.edu

(401) 863-3690

Professor **Jesse Shapiro**

Department of Economics, Harvard University

jesse_shapiro@fas.harvard.edu

(617) 444-9571

M.A. Economics, Brown University

2017

M.Phil. Economics, The University of Tokyo

2016

B.S. Agriculture, Hokkaido University

2014

Visiting student, Shri Ram College of Commerce (University of Delhi)

2012-2013

Teaching and Research Fields

Primary fields: Development Economics, Spatial Economics, Environmental Economics

Secondary fields: Political Economy, Conflict, Agricultural Economics

Research Papers

“Human and Nature: Economies of Density and Conservation in the Amazon Rainforest”

(with Mari Tanaka and Yoshito Takasaki) **Job Market Paper**

Conserving tropical forests impacts the standard of living of local populations. Moreover, human adaptation through sectoral or spatial reallocation of economic activity may undermine conservation policy goals. To derive policies that balance human and ecological well-being, this paper estimates a multi-sector spatial model that formalizes human-nature interactions using high-resolution georeferenced data from roadless river basins in the Peruvian Amazon. Identification comes from plausibly exogenous variation in the structure of river networks. We find that the agglomeration externality in agricultural production outweighs dispersion forces in access to land, implying that higher concentration leads to higher productivity with less deforestation per farmer. We also find a strong congestion externality with spatial spillovers in natural resource extraction. The estimated agglomeration externality, primarily driven by economies of scale in transport

technology and agricultural intensification, generates large welfare and forest cover gains but leads to natural resource depletion through general equilibrium effects. Counterfactuals demonstrate that combining well-targeted place-based protection policies and transport infrastructure can simultaneously achieve higher welfare, lower deforestation, and less natural resource depletion.

“The Golden City on the Edge: Economic Geography and Jihad over Centuries”

(with Masahiro Kubo) *Hayami Award 2022*

This paper uncovers the evolution of cities and Islamist insurgencies, so called *jihad*, in the process of the reversal of fortune over the centuries. In West Africa, water access in ancient periods predicts the locations of the core cities of inland trade routes—the trans-Saharan caravan routes—founded up to the 1800s, when historical Islamic states played significant economic roles before European colonization. In contrast, ancient water access does not have a persistent influence on contemporary city formation and economic activities. After European colonization and the invention of modern trading technologies, along with the constant shrinking of water sources, landlocked pre-colonial core cities contracted. Employing an instrumental variable strategy, we show that these deserted locations have today been replaced by battlefields for jihadist organizations. We argue that the power relations between Islamic states and the European military during the 19th century colonial era shaped the persistence of jihadist ideology as a legacy of colonization. Investigations into religious ideology related to jihadism, using individual-level surveys from Muslims, support this mechanism. The concentration of jihadist violence in “past-core-and-present-periphery” areas in West Africa is consistent with a global-scale phenomenon.

Publications

Tsuda, Shunsuke. “Refugee inflows, surplus farm labor, and crop marketization in rural Africa.”

Journal of Development Economics, Volume 155, March 2022, 102805

This paper sheds light on the structure of factor and output market frictions to investigate long-term effects of refugee inflows on host farmers. Combining a canonical agricultural household model, the natural experimental setting of mass refugee inflows into Tanzania in the early 1990s, and longitudinal panel data from the host economy, I show that refugee inflows cause market-specific gains and losses. Refugee inflows tighten the off-farm labor market participation constraint, implying an increase in surplus farm labor and labor market inefficiency. On the other hand, I observe a positive impact on the transition from subsistence to crop marketization. This transition is revealed to be primarily due to a reduction in fixed transaction costs around refugee camps, not due to an increase in consumption demand by refugees. While the overall impact on agricultural labor productivity is negative, the “surplus farm labor effect” and the “crop marketization effect” act in opposite directions.

Works in Progress

“De-Radicalization and Reintegration from Violent Extremism.” (with Robert Blair, Jun Goto, and Yosuke Nagai)

“Caste Segregation and Spatial Misallocation in Village India” (with Kazuki Motohashi and Mike Neubauer)

“The Economics of Subsistence in Africa.” *S4 Graduate Student Paper Prize 2020, the 2nd place*

Professional Activities

Referee

Journal of Development Economics, *Journal of Urban Economics*

Presentations

- 2022 Y-RISE Conference (Kingston); Hitotsubashi University; University of Georgia; GSE-OSIPP-ISER Joint Conference (Osaka); IRES Workshop (Chapman)*; Growth Lab (Brown)*; Applied Micro Breakfast (Brown); Applied Micro Lunch (Brown, twice); JADE Conference (Virtual)*
- 2021 Applied Micro Breakfast (Brown); Applied Micro Lunch (Brown)
- 2020 NEUDC (Dartmouth, Virtual); Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE) Annual Meeting (Virtual); Research Conference on Forced Displacement (UN City, Copenhagen); Kobe Development Economics and Economic History Seminar (Kobe-DEEH)

2019 Applied Micro Lunch (Brown, twice)
 2018 North East Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC, Cornell)
 2016 Hitotsubashi Summer Institute; JEA meeting (Nagoya-U); Microeconomics Workshop (U-Tokyo)

**Presented by a coauthor*

Affiliations

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| Graduate Affiliate, Institute at Brown for Environment and Society, Brown University | 2021-present |
| Guest Researcher, CREPE, The University of Tokyo | 2020-present |
| Trainee, Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University | 2017-present |
| Fellow, Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences, Brown University | 2017-present |

Research Experience and Other Employment

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| Research Assistant for Professors Daniel Björkegren and Nick Tsivanidis | 2019 |
| Research Assistant for Professors Jesse Shapiro and Matthew Turner | 2018 |
| Research Assistant for Professor Andrew Foster | 2017-2018 |
| Research Assistant for Professor Yoshito Takasaki | 2015-2017 |
| Research Assistant for Professors Yasuyuki Sawada, Takashi Kurosaki, and Jun Goto | 2015-2017 |
| Operation of Self-Help-Groups program, Internship at Chetanalaya, India | 2012-2013 |

Teaching Experience

Brown University, Department of Economics

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| ECON2020 Computing for Economists, Instructor | Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2023 |
| CEEC0925 Econometrics: Statistical Tools to Understand Economic Data, TA for Kenichi Shimizu | 2019 |

The University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Economics and Graduate School of Public Policy

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|---|------|
| Development Economics: Macroeconomic Approach, TA for Professor Kenichi Ueda | 2016 |
| Natural Resource and Environmental Economics, TA for Professor Yoshito Takasaki | 2015 |
| Case Study: Financial Development and Inequality, TA for Professor Kenichi Ueda | 2015 |

Honors, Fellowships, and Grants

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| Interdisciplinary Opportunity Dissertation Completion Fellowship | 2021-2022 |
| Teaching Award, Brown University | 2021 |
| The Bravo Center Research Funding, Brown University | 2020 |
| The Murata Science Foundation Research Grant | 2020 |
| Graduate Program in Development (Watson Institute, Brown University) Summer Funding | 2020 |
| S4 (Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences) Graduate Student Paper Prize, the 2nd place | 2020 |
| Japan Student Services Organization Scholarship | 2016-2019 |
| Research Fellow of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (DC1) | 2016 |
| Sato Yo International Scholarship Foundation | 2012-2013 |

Others

Computer skills: Stata, Julia, Python, Matlab, ArcGIS, Git, LaTeX, Qualtrics

Languages: English (fluent), Japanese (native), Spanish (basic), Hindi (beginner)