**Frida Master’s Project Memo: Skyscrapers**

1. Working title:

* Why China’s poorer cities build higher skyscrapers, while the Europe / New York / India / U.S. wherever has the largest data pool see an opposite correlation

1. Hypothesis

* Lower-GDP cities in China have more and taller skyscrapers. This correlation seems counterintuitive since only richer cities in other countries construct buildings of a giddy height. The heated skyscraper race in China’s low-GDP cities show an economic recession, which is also known as the famous skyscraper index. And we are now witnessing the history repeat itself in China and India.

1. Data and plan to analyze it

* I have already created my own database for skyscrapers across the world, location, country, number of buildings between different ranges of heights, city GDP, city GDP per capita. Now I am adding province GDP, province GDP per capita, country GDP and country GDP per capita.

1. The previous and best reporting on this topic (links and summaries)

* To be honest, basically nothing, except numeric and geographic lists of these buildings.

1. What new and revelatory information do I hope to find?

* Developing countries or cities have a greater fondness towards skyscrapers than the developed ones, with a few Arabian states as exceptions.

1. What obstacles do I expect to encounter (eg. with sources, documents, data, access to places, safety, etc.)

* No response from government bureaus

1. My maximum story

* Prove the correlation in China and India v. an opposite relationship in North America and Europe.

1. My minimum story

* Just compare China and the U.S.

1. My sources: Data, People, Documents

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| National Bureau of Economic Research |  |
| Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH) | international body in the field of tall buildings and [sustainable](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable_design) urban design. N[on-profit organization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-profit_organization) CTBUH announces the title of "The World's Tallest Building" and is widely considered to be an authority on the official height of tall buildings.Missioned is to study and report "on all aspects of the planning, design, and construction of tall buildings." |
| Barr, Mizrach and Mundra  A study 2015 see if a correlation between skyscraper height and economic growth. | No relationship between timing of skyscrapers & business cycle  Time series relationship between the tallest building completed each year and the level of per capita GDP for U.S., Canada, China, and HK are co-integrated. Skyscraper height is not fundamentally based on height competition among builders.  Height cannot be used to predict changes in GDP. However, GDP can be used to predict changes in height. Extreme height is driven by rapid economic growth, but height cannot indicate recessions. |
| Mark Thornton  Senior Fellow at the Mises Institute and the book review editor of the Quarterly Journal of Austrian Economics. | featured as an authority on how record-setting skyscrapers signal impending economic downturns. |

1. Apart from the above, other ways I will report this story

* Mapping the buildings out. Use color and diameter of bubbles to visualization the layout. And scatterplot or another scrollytelling map to show the buildings’ relation with local GDP.

1. Key characters

* Local government who approved the building
* Local citizens perceive the building. Proud? Unrelated?
* Construction companies who construct the buildings.
* Construction workers
* Real estate market analysis
* Economic bureau’s real estate policies

1. Timetable

* I am having some results analyzing data already and am beginning interviews this week.

1. Estimated expenses/Budget: N/A