

Tingting Peng

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EDUCATION

University at Albany, SUNY

NY, USA

Ph.D., Economics, 2019-present

M.A., Economics, 2022

Zhongnan University of Economics and Law

Wuhan, China

M.A., Economics, 2019

B.A., Economics, 2016

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary Interests: Urban and Regional Economics, International Trade, Applied Microeconomics

Secondary Interests: Transportation Economics

WORKING PAPERS

Place-based Policy and Entrepreneurship: Evidence from Theme Park Openings

with Chun-Yu Ho (Job Market Paper)

Abstract: This paper examines the economic impacts of large theme park openings in China from 2000 to 2020 using a newly compiled dataset on county-level theme parks and entrepreneurship. Leveraging the staggered openings of theme parks across various counties, we document three main findings. First, theme park openings lead to a 14% increase in entrepreneurial activities, especially in tourism-related service sectors. This result is robust to the instrumental variable approach, the heterogeneous treatment effect, alternative specification and measurement, and propensity score matching. Second, theme park openings generate spillover effects on neighboring counties within a 50-75 kilometer radius. Third, we identify tourism and agglomeration as the potential mechanisms driving these economic impacts. Back-of-the-envelope calculations suggest that theme park openings promote employment by 11% and overall economic activities by 2%-3%. This study sheds new light on the evaluation of the effectiveness of tourism-related place-based policies.

Endowment, Market Potential, and Spatial Dynamics of Industrial Locations

with Chun-Yu Ho, Dan Li, and Zhijia Xiao, R&R at Economics Letters

Abstract: We compile a novel panel dataset of ship orders across 30 countries from 1896 to 2020 to examine the evolution of the global shipbuilding industry across time and space. We document a transition in the shipbuilding production location from European countries to Asian countries over the sample period. We further apply a panel error-correction model (ECM) to show that both relative capital endowment and market potential account for this transition in the long run, while market potential exerts a more significant influence on ship production in the short run.

Air Connectivity and International Travel: Evidence from Cross-border Card Payments

with Chun-Yu Ho, Haruka Takayama, and Li Xu, under review

Abstract: Many countries seek to attract foreign travelers by improving air connectivity. How do direct flight connections affect the spending of international visitors? A novel dataset on card payments made by Chinese travelers through point-of-sale (POS) terminals enables us to investigate that question. We instrument for the frequency of direct flights between Chinese cities and foreign countries by exploiting overseas airport expansions as exogenous shocks. Our IV estimates indicate that a 1% increase in the weekly frequency of direct flights leads to a 2% increase in cross-border card transaction value. This suggests that in a city with the average frequency, adding one extra weekly direct flight increases the value of transactions by 52% to the destination country. While improving air connectivity promotes international travel, we find that negative shocks to consumer preferences for destination countries, such as boycotts, diminish the positive impact of air connectivity.

Competitive Effects of Regional Airline Exit: Evidence from the COVID-19 Pandemic

with Chun-Yu Ho, Patrick McCarthy, and Li Xu, under review

Abstract: We examine the competitive effects of regional airline exits in the U.S. from April 2019 through December 2020, leveraging the first wave of COVID-19 as a natural experiment. Using propensity score matching and difference-in-differences, we find consumers are worse off after exits, with a 16% decrease in flight availability and a 6% rise in fares. Longer-haul markets and those dominated by full-service carriers experience less impact. Exits also increase connecting flight prices by 2%. Incumbent airlines expand services and raise fares, while competing regional airlines and those with greater cash reserves seize market share, with less impact on on-time performance.

PUBLICATIONS

* indicates pre-doctoral work

- * Liang Zhang, Bin Qiu, Lamei Wu, and Tingting Peng. "Human Capital Accumulation, Trade, and China's Firms Innovation." *China Economic Quarterly* 24, no. 2 (2024), in Chinese.
- * Lin Chen, Tingting Peng, Yanan Lv, Liang Zhang. "China's Agricultural Exports to Belt and Road Countries: A Perspective from the Extensive and Intensive Margins," *Journal of Agrotechnical Economics*, no. 6 (2018), in Chinese.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Export Destination and Input Quality: the Role of Processing Trade

Pre-clearance Policy and Passenger Flows, *with Chun-Yu Ho, Xiaojie Liu, and Li Xu*

PRESENTATIONS

93rd Southern Economics Association (2023, USA)

Econometric Society (2023, Beijing China)

China Economics Society (2023, Wuhan China)

Micro Workshop (2021-2023, University at Albany)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University at Albany, SUNY	NY, USA
Instructor	Jan 2022 - Present
International Economics Relations, Money and Banking, Principles of Microeconomics	
Teaching Assistant	Jan 2020 - Dec 2021
Advanced Macroeconomics, Industrial Organization, Economics Statistics	
Tutor	Sep 2019 - Dec 2019
Intermediate Microeconomics and Macroeconomics, Principles of Microeconomics and Macroeconomics	

HONORS AND AWARDS

University at Albany, SUNY	NY, USA
Pong Lee Award, for outstanding third-year paper, 2022	
Graduate Student Association Professional Development Grants, 2022	
The Buhrmaster Family Endowment Award, Initiative for Women (IFW), 2022	
Graduate Assistantship, 2019-2023	
Zhongnan University of Economics and Law	Wuhan, China
Graduate National Scholarship, 2017	
First Class of Graduate Academic Scholarship, 2016-2019	
Outstanding Graduate, 2016	
National Encouragement Scholarship, 2015	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Languages: English (fluent), Chinese (Native), Cantonese (fluent)

Citizenship: China

REFERENCES

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