

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: Regional and Urban 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 effects of large theme park openings in China from 2000 to 2020 using a newly compiled dataset on county-level theme parks and entrepreneurship activities. Leveraging the staggered openings of theme parks across various counties, we document three findings. First, theme park openings lead to an approximately 14% increase in entrepreneurship activities, especially in tourism-related service sectors. This result is robust to instrumental variable approach, heterogeneous treatment effect, alternative specifications, measurements, and selection methodology. Second, theme park openings generate spillover effects on neighboring counties within a 75-kilometer radius. Third, tourism and agglomeration are identified as the potential channels. Back-of-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.

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

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

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.

Endowment, Market Potential, and Spatial Dynamics of Industrial Locations

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

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.

PUBLICATIONS

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.

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

Instructor

NY, USA

Jan 2022 - Present

International Economics Relations, Money and Banking, Principles of Microeconomics

Teaching Assistant

Jan 2020 - Dec 2021

Advanced Macroeconomics, Industrial Organization, Economics Statistics

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

Programming Skills: Stata, R, LaTeX, MS Office, SAS**Languages:** English (fluent), Chinese (Native), Cantonese (fluent)**Citizenship:** China

REFERENCES

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