

**MOISES YI**

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**HOME ADDRESS:**

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**DESIRED RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS:**

PRIMARY

Labor Economics  
Applied Econometrics

SECONDARY

International Trade  
Public Economics  
Urban Economics

**FIELDS OF CONCENTRATION:**

Labor Economics, Public Economics

**DISSERTATION TITLE:** "Essays on Labor Markets and Trade"

Expected Date of Completion:	May 2016
Principal Advisor:	David Card
Other References:	Enrico Moretti, Pat Kline, Andres Rodriguez-Clare

**PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES:**

University of California – Berkeley

**DEGREE**

B.A.

**DATE**

2008

**FIELD**

Economics (Highest Honors)

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

**RESEARCH:**

Research Assistant, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania (2008-2010)  
Research with Professors Fernando Ferreira and Todd Sinai on housing markets and local public finances.

**PAPERS:**

**"Industry Mix, Local Labor Markets, and the Incidence of Trade Shocks"** with S. Mueller and J. Stegmaier (Job Market Paper)

Abstract: We analyze the roles that skill transferability and the local industry mix have on the adjustment costs of workers affected by a negative trade shock. Using rich administrative data from Germany, we construct novel measures of economic distance between sectors based on the notion of skill transferability. We combine these distance measures with sectoral employment shares in German regions to construct an index of labor market flexibility. This index captures the degree to which workers from a particular industry will be able to reallocate into other jobs. We then study the role of labor market flexibility on the effect of import shocks on the earnings and the employment outcomes of German manufacturing workers. Among workers living in inflexible labor markets, the difference between a worker at the 75th percentile of industry import exposure and one at the 25th percentile of exposure amounts to an earnings loss ranging from 9 to 11% of initial annual income (over a 10 year period). The earning losses of workers living in flexible regions are negligible. These findings are robust to controlling for a wide array of region level characteristics, including region size and overall employment growth. Taken together, our findings indicate that the industry composition of local labor markets plays an important role on the adjustment processes of workers.

**"Slicing the Pie: Quantifying the Aggregate and Distributional Effects of Trade"** with S. Galle and A. Rodriguez-Clare  
(Presented at the 2015 NBER Summer Institute)

Abstract: This paper develops and applies a framework to quantify the effect of trade on aggregate welfare as well as the distribution of this aggregate effect across different groups of workers. The framework combines a multi-sector gravity model of trade with a Roy-type model of the allocation of workers across sectors. By opening to trade, a country gains in the aggregate by specializing according to its comparative advantage, but the distribution of these gains is unequal as labor demand increases (decreases) for groups of workers specialized in export-oriented (import-oriented) sectors. The model generalizes the specific-factors intuition to a setting with labor reallocation, while maintaining analytical tractability for any number of groups and countries. Our new notion of "inequality-adjusted" welfare effect of trade captures the full cross-group distribution of welfare changes in one measure, as the counterfactual scenario is evaluated by a risk-averse agent behind the veil of ignorance regarding the group to which she belongs. The quantitative application uses trade and labor allocation data across regions in the US and Germany to compute the aggregate and distributional effects of a shock to trade costs or foreign technology levels. For the extreme case in which the country moves back to

autarky we find that inequality-adjusted gains from trade are larger than the aggregate gains for both countries, as between-group inequality falls with trade relative to autarky, but the opposite happens for the shock in which China expands in the world economy.

**“Productivity Spillovers: Evidence from Inside a Firm”** with Torsten Walter (In Progress)

Abstract: We use detailed production data from a large Latin American garment manufacturer to study the process of technology adoption and resulting productivity changes within a firm. We find that the adoption of modern manufacturing techniques increases productivity through two channels, a direct effect and a spillover effect across adjacent production units. By exploiting the gradual introduction of new manufacturing techniques across independent production units, we estimate a direct effect on productivity of roughly 30%. We also estimate large spillovers to neighboring untreated units which amount to a 25% increase in productivity. Both of these effects accumulate slowly over time. The timing and the magnitudes of the estimated spillover effects corroborate qualitative evidence consistent with knowledge diffusion, learning and imitation.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

IWH Workshop on Firm Exit and Job Displacement 2015 (Halle, Germany)  
LACEA-LAMES Annual Meetings 2014 (Sao Paulo, Brazil)

**FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:**

2015	UC Berkeley Dean’s Normative Time Fellowship
2015	UC Berkeley Graduate Division Summer Grant
2014	UC Berkeley Conference Travel Grant
2013	UC Berkeley Center for Latin American Studies Tinker Grant
2011-2015	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
2010-2014	UC Berkeley Chancellor’s Fellowship
2008	AEA Minority Fellowship, AEA Summer Program in Economics
2006-2007	McNair Scholar Program, SURF & Pergo Foundation Fellowship, UC Berkeley
2005	Hispanic Scholarship Fund Scholarship

**OTHER INFORMATION:**

Affiliations:	AEA, LACEA
Languages:	English (fluent), Spanish (native)
Citizenship:	United States, Peru