

# Wei CHEN

December, 2020

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2021 (anticipated).

M.A. in Economics, Peking University, 2015.

B.A. in Economics (Honors), University of International Business and Economics, 2011.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Macroeconomics, Chinese economy and Trade

## PUBLICATION

"A Forensic Examination of China's National Accounts," with Xilu Chen, Chang-Tai Hsieh and Zheng (Michael) Song, *Brookings Papers in Economic Activity*, Spring 2019.

## WORKING PAPERS

"Decentralized Industrial Policy", with Ernest Liu and Zheng (Michael) Song, *Job Market Paper*, 2020

**Abstract:** Many industrial policies were enacted by local governments. Decentralizing government intervention can undermine industrial policies if the local and aggregate welfare are misaligned. In this paper, we extend the closed-economy analysis in Liu (2019) to a multi-region setting with inter-regional trade and input-output linkages. We derive sufficient statistics for the regional and aggregate welfare impacts of industrial policy. Using China's cross-province input-output table, we show there is significant divergence between the incentives of the central and a provincial government: while the nation may benefit from promoting upstream sectors, regional economies benefit from "import substitution" policies that improve terms-of-trade but may harm the nation. Our central and local sufficient statistics predict policies enacted by the respective governments. The predictive power for local industrial policies improves in the regions with more fiscal autonomy. Adopting industrial policies aligned with central sufficient statistics can double the aggregate welfare gain by industrial policies aligned with local sufficient statistics.

"**The Economic Impact of COVID-19 in China: Evidence from City-to-City Truck Flows**",  
with Jingjing Chen, Ernest Liu, Jie Luo and Zheng (Michael) Song, 2020

**Abstract:** The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated containment measures have wreaked economic havoc around the world. Yet, the precise economic impact is difficult to measure, since even an outbreak confined to a single locality has spill-over effects into other regions due to economic linkages. This paper overcomes the difficulty by developing sufficient statistics for economic impact based on high-frequency, city-to-city truck flow data from China. We use the statistics to measure COVID shocks and find that local pandemic severity only accounts for less than 20% of the estimated COVID shocks. The large residual component in the COVID shocks suggests substantial variations in the preventive responses across cities and over time. The largest economic impacts are from COVID shocks to Wuhan and Beijing, knocking 1.7% and 1.6% off the national real income. If all Chinese cities had containment policies that responded to local pandemic severity in the same way as those in Hubei did, China's first-quarter real income would have declined by 47%.

## PRESENTATION

Macro Workshop on Chinese Economy, CUHK-Tsinghua Joint Research Center for Chinese Economy, Nov 2020

Department seminar, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Nov 2020

CUHK-ShanghaiTech Workshop on Chinese Economy, ShanghaiTech University, Dec 2019

## VISITING

School of Entrepreneurship and Management, ShanghaiTech University, Nov 2019-Jan 2020

## REFEREEING

China Economic Review

## TEACHING EXPERIENCES

The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Teaching Assistant

ECON 1010 Perspectives in Economics, Fall 2015, 2020

ECON 3320 Asia-Pacific Economies, Spring 2018, 2019, and 2020

Peking University, Teaching Assistant

Economics of Development, Fall 2014

Monetary Economics, joint program with The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Fall 2014

Advanced Macroeconomics, Fall 2013

## HONORS AND AWARDS

Postgraduate Studentship, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2015-2020

Graduate Scholarship, Peking University, 2012-2015

Zhongying Scholarship, Peking University, 2014

First-Class Student Scholarship, University of International Business and Economics, 2008-2010

## SKILL

Software: MATLAB, Stata, LaTeX, LyX, Gephi

Data: Annual Survey of Above-Scale Industrial Firms, Firm Survey from China's State Administration of Taxation, Firm Registration Data from the State Administration for Market Regulation, Value-added Invoice Data in China, etc.

## REFERENCES

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