

# Tingting Peng

Website: <https://tpeng2023.github.io/tpeng.github.io/> | Email: [tpeng2@albany.edu](mailto:tpeng2@albany.edu)

## EDUCATION

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### 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

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

**Secondary Interests:** Transportation Economics

## WORKING PAPERS

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### 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**

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\* from 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**

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### **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**

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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

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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

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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

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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**Programming Skills:** Stata, R, LaTeX, MS Office, SAS

**Econometric Methods:** Causal Inference (Instrumental Variables Strategy, Difference-in-Differences, and Regression Discontinuity Design), Propensity Score Matching, Event Study, Time Series and Panel Data Model (ARDL, Poisson Regression)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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**Languages:** English (fluent), Chinese (Native), Cantonese (fluent)  
**Citizenship:** China

## REFERENCES

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Chun-Yu Ho  
Associate Professor  
Department of Economics  
University at Albany, SUNY  
cho@albany.edu

Byoung Park  
Associate Professor  
Department of Economics  
University at Albany, SUNY  
bpark2@albany.edu

Haruka Takayama  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Economics  
University at Albany, SUNY  
htakayama@albany.edu

Zhongwen Liang  
Associate Professor  
Department of Economics  
University at Albany, SUNY  
zliang3@albany.edu