

JEFFREY WANG
scholar.harvard.edu/jcwang
jeffrey_wang@g.harvard.edu

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Placement Director: Amanda Pallais	APALLAIS@FAS.HARVARD.EDU	617-495-2151
Placement Director: Elie Tamer	ELIETAMER@FAS.HARVARD.EDU	617-496-1526
Assistant Director: Brenda Piquet	BPIQUET@FAS.HARVARD.EDU	617-495-8927

Office Contact Information

1805 Cambridge St
Cambridge, MA 02138
617-480-5186

Personal Information:

Citizenship: United States

Undergraduate Studies:

B.A. in Economics and Mathematics, Williams College, *Summa Cum Laude*, 2016

Graduate Studies:

Harvard University, 2016 to present

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics

Thesis Title: "Essays on Technology and International Trade"

Expected Completion Date: May 2022

References:

Professor Pol Antras
Harvard University
Littauer Center 210
pantras@fas.harvard.edu
617-495-1236

Professor Gordon Hanson
Harvard Kennedy School
Rubenstein Hall 401
gordon_hanson@hks.harvard.edu
617-496-1074

Professor Elhanan Helpman
Harvard University
Littauer Center 217
ehelpman@harvard.edu
617-495-4690

Professor Marc Melitz
Harvard University
Littauer Center 215
mmelitz@harvard.edu
617-496-3165

Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary field: International Trade

Secondary fields: Macroeconomics, Technology

Teaching Experience:

Spring 2019,	Intermediate Microeconomics (Undergraduate), Harvard University, Teaching
2020, 2021	Fellow for Professor Marc Melitz
Fall 2019,	Intermediate Microeconomics (Undergraduate), Harvard University, Teaching
2020	Fellow for Professor Maxim Boycko

Fall 2018 The World Economy: Growth or Stagnation (Undergraduate), Harvard University,
Teaching Fellow for Professor Dale Jorgenson

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2019-2021 Research Assistant for Professor Teresa Fort, Tuck School of Business at
Dartmouth College
2018 Research Assistant for Professor Marc Melitz, Harvard University
2015 Summer Research Analyst, Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Professional Activities

Invited Presentations: Western Economic Association International 2021
Referee for *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2021 Harvard University Dissertation Completion Fellowship
2018-2021 Harvard University Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (Awarded to
Teaching Fellows with overall evaluation score of 4.5 or higher out of 5)
2015 Beinecke Scholarship

Job Market Paper:

“Robots, Trade, and Offshoring: A Perspective from US Firms”

Abstract: What is the impact of automation on trade? This paper studies the impact of industrial robots on US manufacturing firms, with a focus on trade and offshoring. I construct a parsimonious model of two-stage production that incorporates automation and offshoring in both production of intermediate inputs (upstream production) and assembly (downstream production). I then develop a novel instrumental variables strategy based on immigrant inflows of robot-complementary workers to examine the impact of robot adoption on firm-level outcomes. Using a detailed administrative dataset of US manufacturing firms, I find that at the firm level, robot adoption has a positive effect on imports of both intermediate inputs and final outputs, but the effect is significantly larger for input imports. Robot adoption also leads to an increase in sales and productivity, and an increase in employment and wages favoring non-manufacturing workers. These empirical findings are consistent with predictions of the model and the hypothesis that robots are mainly used in assembly. Quantitative estimation of the model confirms the comparative advantage of robots in downstream production. Following a positive shock to productivity of robots, robot adopters increase their sales, imports, and expenditure on domestic inputs but not domestic assembly, while non-adopters contract in all dimensions due to within-industry competition. In aggregate, the rise of industrial robots in the US between 1992 and 2012 is associated with a 15% increase in imports and a 14% decrease in domestic manufacturing employment, with significant heterogeneity across different types of imports and workers. I use the estimated model to evaluate costs and benefits of robot taxes and subsidies.

Research in Progress:

“The Cost of Banking Deserts: Racial Disparities in Access to PPP Lenders and their Implications” (with David Hao Zhang)

Abstract: Many government support programs for small businesses are designed to pass through banks and credit unions. However, this poses barriers for minority communities that are less connected to financial institutions for obtaining this support. Using the latest program for supporting small businesses, the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), as an example, we show that there was a large disparity in the density of PPP enrolled lenders by racial composition of the neighborhood. This difference is both due to a lower density of lenders in those neighborhoods in general, and by the fact that the banks and credit unions that do operate there are smaller, are less likely to have previous relationships with the Small Business Administration, and are less likely to enroll in the program. More heavily Black neighborhoods have significantly lower take-up of PPP loans particularly in lower population (more rural) areas where

this disparity is most salient. Through an instrumental variables analysis, we show that the intensive margin of access to enrolled lenders can explain about 35% of the racial disparity in take up within the relevant areas. Our results suggest that government programs that provide "support through banks" can have undesirable distributional implications.

“Technology and Reallocation: Evidence from US Labor Markets”

Abstract: How do automation technologies shape labor market outcomes? In this paper, I exploit a unique technology shock based on immigrant inflows of robot-complementary workers to study the impact of industrial robots on US local labor markets. Robots have a negative effect on local employment at the commuting zone level. However, I show that this effect is primarily driven by reallocation across industries. Once industry variation is controlled for, commuting zones with higher exposure to the robot shock experience an increase in employment and wages, concentrated in college graduates working in non-routine-intensive occupations. Empirical results suggest that technology induces reallocation of employment and wages along three margins: labor markets, industries, and worker types. I discuss implications of these reallocation mechanisms for wage inequality in the United States.

“Exporting and Default Risk” (with Jack Feng)

Abstract: This paper seeks to understand the relationship between exporting and default risk at the firm level. Using a dataset of publicly traded US firms connecting data on balance sheets, exports, and corporate bonds, we find that exporting is associated with a higher default risk, measured by corporate bond yield spread. This positive relationship is present for both extensive and intensive margins of exporting. We rationalize these empirical findings with a stylized model in which exporting requires a fixed cost and exposes a firm to foreign demand shocks leading to an increase in volatility. The model predicts that the positive effect of exporting on default risk is stronger when (1) fixed costs are higher as a share of revenue, (2) foreign demand is more volatile, and (3) correlation between foreign and domestic demand is higher. Combining the firm-level dataset with product-level import data for the US, we provide empirical evidence supporting each of the theoretical predictions.

“AI and firms” (with Rafael Proenca, in progress)