TONG NI (倪童)

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Singapore Management University, 2021–2026 (expected)
   Dissertation Title: "Essays on International Trade and Spatial Economics"
   Dissertation Committee: Yuan Mei (co-advisor), Lin Ma (co-advisor), Pao-Li Chang, Haichao Fan

M.Econ., Applied Economics, Xi'an Jiaotong University, 2018–2021

Diplôme d'Ingénieur (MSc. Eng., Dual Degree), CentraleSupélec (Paris-Saclay University), 2016–2018

B.Eng., Electrical Engineering and Automation, Xi'an Jiaotong University, 2014–2018

RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Trade, Spatial Economics

PUBLICATIONS

"Climate Change, Trade Cost, and Economic Growth: A Quantitative Estimation Based on International Shipping Data", with Huanhuan Wang and Ce Guo, *Journal of Management World* (in Chinese, 管理世界), 2025, 41(09), 94–118.

WORKING PAPERS

"Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and Trade Policy: A Quantitative Analysis", with Haichao Fan, Yuan Mei, and Huanhuan Wang, *Job Market Paper*, 2025

"Tariffs as Bargaining Chips: A Quantitative Analysis of the U.S.-China Trade War", with Naiyuan Hu and Yuan Mei, 2025, **Revise and Resubmit at *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics***

"Investing in a Mobile Asset: Higher Education, Graduate Mobility, and Underinvestment", with Naiyuan Hu, Lin Ma, and Ben Zou, 2025

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

"Love Panda, Love China: The Panda Effect on International Trade", with Pao-Li Chang, Wei Jin, Dingfan Kang, and Angdi Lu

"Relaxation of Internal Migration Restrictions and Labor Market Sorting", with Yutao Wang

SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025	China Economic Annual Conference (Shanghai Jiaotong University)*, Doctoral Forum on Macroeconomics (Xiamen University)*, Annual Meeting of the China Society of World Economics (Jimei University)*, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, Fudan University, Nankai University, SMU, HKUST-Fudan-SMU Conference on International Economics (Fudan University), Asia Pacific Trade Seminars (University of Tokyo)

| 2024 | European Trade Study Group (Athens University of Economics and Business), Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society (Zhejiang University), Singapore Rising Scholars Conference (*Best Paper Award*, SMU) |

* scheduled

AWARDS, HONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2025–2026	Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship, SMU
2024–2025	Presidential Doctoral Fellowship, SMU
2022	Best First-Year Student Award, SMU
2021–2025	Doctoral Full Scholarship, Singapore Ministry of Education
2021	Distinguished Master's Thesis Award, XJTU
2018–2021	Academic Scholarship, XJTU
2016–2018	Eiffel Scholarship, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
2015	Ultra-High-Voltage Scholarship (Top 3 students), State Grid Corporation of China

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Singapore Management University

2024–2025	International Economics (Undergraduate), Prof. Yuan Mei
2024	International Economics (Undergraduate), Prof. Yang Jiao
2023	Economics of Globalization (Undergraduate), Prof. Yuan Mei
2023–2025	Macroeconomics II (Undergraduate), Prof. Jianhuan Xu
2022–2024	Microeconomics II (Ph.D.), Prof. Shurojit Chatterji

Teaching Assistant, Xi'an Jiaotong University

2020	Econometrics I (Master's), Prof. Weihong Zeng
2020	Panel Data Analysis (Master's), Prof. Goeun Lee
2020	Principles of Economics (Undergraduate), Prof. Yu-Sen Kwoh

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Singapore Management University

2024	Research Assistant to Prof. Lin Ma
2023	Research Assistant to Prof. Christine Ho
2023–2025	Research Assistant to Prof. Pao-Li Chang
2022–2024	Research Assistant to Prof. Yuan Mei

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

Journal Referee

Economic Modelling, Review of Economics of the Household, Review of World Economics

Workshop Organization

| 2024–2025 | SMU International Trade Study Group |

Summer School

| 2024 | CUHK Summer School of Asia in the Global Economy —"Rethinking Supply Chains" |

SKILLS AND PERSONAL INFORMATION

Programming	MATLAB, Stata, Julia, Python, LaTeX
Languages	English (Fluent), French (Intermediate), Mandarin Chinese (Native)
Personal	Born July 1996; Male; Chinese citizen

REFERENCES

Prof. Yuan Mei (Co-Advisor)
Assistant Professor of Economics
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Singapore Management University
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Fudan University
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Last Update: November 8, 2025

"Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and Trade Policy: A Quantitative Analysis", with Haichao Fan, Yuan Mei, and Huanhuan Wang, *Job Market Paper*, 2025

Abstract: The European Union (EU) has introduced the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) to curb carbon leakage and incentivize global climate policy alignment. We develop a multi-country, multi-sector general equilibrium model featuring input–output linkages, carbon supply chains, and global emission externalities to evaluate the environmental and economic impacts of the EU's CBAM. Our results show that unilateral implementation modestly reduces global emissions due to carbon leakage through global energy markets. Global welfare improves marginally when environmental benefits are accounted for. When other countries respond optimally, strategic carbon policy adjustments under a non-cooperative Nash equilibrium enhance global emission reductions by mitigating both carbon leakage and free-riding. Under a cooperative equilibrium with Nash bargaining, multilateral negotiations yield substantial welfare and environmental gains, with the CBAM functioning as an effective enforcement device that raises the cost of disagreement and fosters deeper global climate cooperation.

"Tariffs as Bargaining Chips: A Quantitative Analysis of the U.S.–China Trade War", with Naiyuan Hu and Yuan Mei, 2025, **Revise and Resubmit at** *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics*

Abstract: Non-cooperative tariffs change outside options and thus affect welfare outcomes in potential tariff negotiations. We focus on the U.S.–China trade war from 2018 through 2019 and examine whether such tariffs can serve as leverage to improve U.S. post-negotiation welfare. With a multi-country, multi-sector quantitative trade model, we simulate negotiations from two starting points: the 2017 baseline and the 2019 trade-war equilibrium. Our results show that, across reasonable estimates of U.S. bargaining power, imposing trade-war tariffs before the negotiations consistently enhances U.S. post-negotiation welfare.

"Investing in a Mobile Asset: Higher Education, Graduate Mobility, and Underinvestment", with Naiyuan Hu, Lin Ma, and Ben Zou, 2025

Abstract: Higher education produces a mobile asset—skilled graduates—who may leave the jurisdiction where they were trained, making education a "leaky" investment for local governments. We develop a dynamic spatial life-cycle general equilibrium model in which individuals endogenously choose education and migration, while local governments allocate budgets and set admission policies. Quantified to the context of China, the model shows that the observed college expansion path reflects substantial underinvestment relative to a central planner benchmark, leaving large efficiency and equality gains unrealized. Underinvestment persists in a decentralized, locally funded Nash equilibrium, as provinces strategically free ride on inflows of graduates educated elsewhere and hold back their own investment, leading to national inefficiency. Optimal place-based strategies depend on development stage: advanced regions benefit from front-loaded education investment, whereas lagging provinces optimally delay investment until productivity and retention conditions improve.