

Chengxi Su

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EDUCATION

Purdue University , Ph.D. in Economics	In progress
Dissertation Committee: Chong Xiang (Chair), Timothy Bond, Ben Zou, Victoria Prowse	
Duke University , Master's degree in Economics	2020–2022
Nankai University , Bachelor's degree in Economics	2016–2020

RESEARCH FIELDS

International Trade; Labor Economics; Applied Microeconomics

JOB MARKET PAPER

Trade Shocks Inside the Job: Evidence on Unmet Employment Obligations in China

This paper examines how trade shocks affect the fulfillment of employment obligations to workers. I construct a new dataset of 1.2 million claims from 577,000 Chinese labor court judgments, recovering what workers were owed, how courts ruled, and whether work continued during periods of nonpayment. These records make it possible to study an adjustment margin that employment and earnings data rarely capture: workers continue supplying labor while compensation already due remains unpaid. Exploiting foreign-demand-driven changes in local exports, I find that adverse shocks increase court-supported claims over obligations arising within jobs, including cases in which workers continued working through wage arrears. The response is not driven by standard separation settlements. A model of an ongoing employment relationship shows how pressure on employers and deteriorating outside options for workers can give rise to incomplete fulfillment before separation.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Origin Specialization in Crime: Hukou Origins and Destination Cities in China

Using Chinese criminal court records, I study whether an origin's specialization across crime types persists among people from that origin in other cities. I find that local specialization recurs across destinations after accounting for destination crime conditions, with a stronger relationship in cases involving co-offenders from the same origin.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Purdue University

Chong Xiang and Alejandro Lopez-Espino, Network Policy project.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, Purdue University

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistical and programming software: Stata, Python, R, MATLAB
Document preparation: LaTeX