

ROBIN GONG

kgong@stanford.edu

<http://www.stanford.edu/~kgong>

Department of Economics

Stanford University

579 Serra Mall

Stanford, CA 94305-6072

(510) 735-6470

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics

Stanford University

Expected Completion: June 2019

B.A. in Economics, Mathematics, and Statistics

University of California, Berkeley

2009-2013

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

Prof. Nicholas Bloom

Economics Department, Stanford University

(650) 725-7836

nbloom@stanford.edu

Prof. Pete Klenow

Economics Department, Stanford University

(650) 725-3266

pete@klenow.net

Prof. Kyle Bagwell

Economics Department, Stanford University

(650) 723-3251

kbagwell@stanford.edu

Prof. Hongbin Li

Stanford Center on Global Poverty and Development

(650) 723-4168

hongbinli@stanford.edu

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Fields: Labor Economics, International Trade

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2015-16	Teaching Assistant for Economics 118: Development Economics
	Teaching Assistant for Economics 135/MS&E 245G: Finance for Non-MBAs
2016-17	Teaching Assistant for Economics 102B: Applied Econometrics
	Teaching Assistant for Economics 191: Introduction to Cost Accounting
	Teaching Assistant for Economics 1: Principles of Economics
2017-18	Teaching Assistant for Economics 135: Finance for Non-MBAs
	Teaching Assistant for Economics 101: Entrepreneurial Finance
	Teaching Assistant for Economics 190: Introduction to Financial Accounting

RELEVANT POSITIONS

2014-15 Research Assistant for Prof. Nicholas Bloom, Stanford University
2015-16 Research Assistant for Prof. Shai Bernstein, Stanford University

SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS

2017 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award
2018-19 SIEPR Dissertation Fellowship
2018-19 IRiSS Dissertation Fellowship

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Referee for *American Economic Review: Insights*, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, *The Economics of Transition*.
Presenter, Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society, 2017
Presenter, All California Labor Economics Conference, 2017

RESEARCH PAPERS

The Local Technology Spillovers of Multinational Firms (Job Market Paper)

This paper identifies the causal impact of U.S. multinationals' technology shocks on their manufacturing subsidiaries and the nearby domestic firms in China. Combining firm-level panel data from both U.S. and China, I match U.S. multinationals to their subsidiaries in China and measure the technology shocks based on the multinationals' patenting activities. I find multinationals' technology shocks improve the output and total factor productivity (TFP) of both their subsidiaries and the domestic firms in the nearby geographic areas. Furthermore, domestic firms' productivity gains mainly attribute to the technology spillovers within-industry and through technological linkages. Last, I study the impact of multinationals' technology shocks on local firms' technology upgrading decisions, and find the shocks stimulate innovation of the more productive firms.

Measuring the Impact of Regulation on Firms (with Costantine Yannelis)

This paper introduces a new measure of firm-level regulation. Contrary to the conventional wisdom, we find that more regulation increases labor and capital inputs. Productivity decreases, which is consistent with a model of regulation inducing non-productive investment. We employ two empirical strategies to identify the causal impact of regulation on firms, first, utilizing structural breaks and industry level regulation changes, and second, computing predicted industry level regulation measures as instruments. We conduct an event study using the surprise 2016 US election results. Firms with higher Dodd-Frank exposure exhibited higher returns following an increase in the probability of repeal.

Does Import Competition Induce R&D Reallocation? Evidence from the U.S. (with Rui Xu)

We analyze the impact of rising import competition from China on U.S. innovative activities. Using Compustat data, we find that import competition induces R&D expenditures to be reallocated towards more productive and more profitable firms within each industry. Such reallocation effect has the potential to offset the average drop in firm-level R&D identified in the previous literature. Indeed, our quantitative analysis shows no adverse impact of import competition on aggregate R&D expenditures. Taking the analysis beyond manufacturing, we find that import competition has led to reallocation of researchers towards booming service industries, including business and repairs, personal, and financial services.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

The Impact of Inequality Shocks on Stock Returns: A News-based Approach

This paper introduces a news-based index of inequality-related economic shocks based on the Newsbank database, which covers about 1500 U.S. newspapers in each year. By computing the percentage of newspaper articles mentioning inequality-related keywords, I construct a daily inequality-related news index. I first document a big increase in the index after the financial crisis in 2008, and several jumps after major policy events. I then investigate the stock market response to the inequality-related news, and find industries with higher average wage levels, larger wage gaps, higher market concentration, and more consumer-focused products are more likely to respond negatively to the inequality news in their stock market returns.