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PLACEMENT DIRECTORS

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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, expected May 2020
M.A.	Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, 2016
B.A.	Economics, Seoul National University, South Korea, 2012

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: Macroeconomics, Firm Dynamics, Firm Innovation
Secondary: International Trade

DISSERTATION

Essays on Firm Growth Through Innovation and International Trade
Committee: Prof. John Haltiwanger (Co-Chair), Prof. Nuno Limão (Co-Chair), Prof. Felipe Saffie (Co-Chair)

JOB MARKET PAPER

"Defensive Innovation and Firm Growth in the U.S.: Impact of International Trade"

I develop a two-country endogenous growth model to show that increasing foreign competition contributes to the recent decline in high-growth firm activities and startup rates in the U.S. by changing the way how firms allocate their innovative effort. Firms improve their existing products through internal innovation, while developing new products through external innovation. A novel friction I consider is that it takes time to learn others' technology, which I denote as an imperfect technology spillover. This friction allows firms to defend themselves from competitors by building technological barriers through internal innovation. Increasing foreign competition induces innovation-intensive and thus fast-growing firms to invest more in internal innovation for defensive reasons. At the same time, foreign competition discourages all firms from undertaking external innovation. This shift in innovation cuts the employment growth of innovation-intensive firms, as external innovation generates more quality improvement than internal innovation and requires firms to hire a new set of workers to produce new products. Entry for potential startups is harder as incumbents build higher technological barriers. By using firm-level data from the U.S. Census Bureau integrated with firm-level patent data, I confirm the model's predictions.

OTHER RESEARCH PAPERS

"Trade Induced Technological Change in the U.S.: The Rise of Software and Labor Substituting Technology", work in progress

"The Effects of Offshoring on Firm Entry and Growth", with Joonkyu Choi, and Chen Yeh, work in progress

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis, University of Maryland, Fall 2018
Teaching Assistant, Principles of Macroeconomics, University of Maryland, Spring 2017
Teaching Assistant, Principles of Microeconomics, University of Maryland, Fall 2015
Teaching Assistant, Money and Banking, University of Maryland, Fall 2014 and Spring 2015
Teaching Assistant, Microeconomic Theory, Seoul National University, Fall 2012 and Fall 2013
Teaching Assistant, Mathematics for Economists, Seoul National University, Spring 2012 and Spring 2014

RESEARCH AND RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Special Sworn Status (SSS) Researcher, U.S. Census Bureau, March 2019-Present
Research Assistant, Prof. Felipe Saffie, University of Maryland, December 2015-December 2016
Research Assistant, Asia Center, Seoul National University, September 2013-January 2014

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Western Economic Association International (WEAI) Graduate Student Workshop Travel Grant, Summer 2019
Kauffman Dissertation Fellowship, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, 2017-2018
Graduate Assistantship, Department of Economics, University of Maryland, 2014-2019
Teaching Assistantship, Department of Economics, Seoul National University, 2012-2014
Academic Achievement Award, Department of Economics, Seoul National University, 2010

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

2019: WEAI Graduate Student Workshop (San Francisco), Midwest Macroeconomics Meeting (Athens), Global Entrepreneurship and Innovation Research Conference Poster Session (Washington DC)

LANGUAGES

English (fluent), Korean (native)

COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS

Fortran, MATLAB, Python, SAS, and Stata

REFERENCES

Prof. John Haltiwanger	University of Maryland	halt@umd.edu	(301) 405-3504
Prof. Nuno Limão	University of Maryland	limao@umd.edu	(301) 405-7842
Prof. Felipe Saffie	University of Maryland	fesaffie@umd.edu	(301) 405-3490