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## EDUCATION:

Ph.D. Economics, University of California, Davis, *expected 2010*.

DISSERTATION: Essays Exploring the Effects of Firm Behavior on International Outcomes.

Committee: Robert Feenstra (chair), Christopher Knittel, and Deborah Swenson.

M.A. Economics, University of California, Davis, 2007.

B.A. Economics with Honors, University of Oregon, 2006.

Minor: Mathematics.

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, *Magna Cum Laude*.

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS:

International Trade, Empirical Industrial Organization, Applied Econometrics

## WORKS IN PROGRESS:

*The Competitive Effects of Heterogeneous Firms Facing Capacity Constraints Under International Trade. Job Market Paper,*

There is a long standing tradition in industrial organization studying the impact of capacity constraints on market competition. However, this tradition has not spread to modern international trade. This paper develops a model of international trade where firms are heterogeneous across two dimensions; capacity and productivity. The introduction of capacity generates two novel channels, an effect of composition and a substitution effect, which have important implications for competition and how equilibrium responds to market size and trade policy. When capacity is relatively "tight", the model yields results similar to a market where firms tacitly collude. This is due to a prevalence of constrained firms charging higher prices (the effect of composition) boosting the average price level. When capacity is relatively abundant, the model's predictions are akin to those of Melitz and Ottaviano (2008). With trade, capacity constraints endogenize heterogeneous exporters' decisions across destinations (the substitution effect), which can magnify or dampen the effect of composition depending upon relative market characteristics. The novel channels of the model rationalize features common in firm-level data, but not new trade theory. Substitution across destinations and low levels of production from a number of relatively efficient firms, for example, are anomalous to the majority of prevalent new trade theories but readily explained by this model. I empirically identify and explain these main results using plant-level Chilean manufacturing data. Furthermore, I show that the classic predictions of new trade theory, that large and exporting firms are the most efficient, hold in my model and remain consistent in the data after controlling for capacity.

## PUBLICATIONS:

*Measuring the Benefits of Product Variety with an Accurate Variety Set*, joint with Bruce Blonigen.  
Revisions requested by the Journal of International Economics,

Recent studies have used import data to assess the impact of foreign varieties on prices and welfare for a home country. The reliance on import data has a number of limitations. First, these papers rely on goods categories defined by the Harmonized System. Second, they define varieties using the Armington assumption that all imports coming from a particular country are one unique variety. Third, they ignore variety changes that may occur through foreign affiliate activity. In this paper, we revisit this literature by employing a detailed market-based data set on the U.S. automobile market that allows us to define goods varieties at a more precise level, as well as discern location of production and ownership of varieties. We show that estimated variety changes and their impacts on U.S. prices and welfare differ markedly for automobiles depending on whether one uses the standard import data or our more detailed market-based data. The import data and Armington assumption hide significant net variety change leading to a downward bias in the effects of net variety change, with implied welfare benefits only half what we find with our market-based data. We also show that the welfare gains from all foreign-owned varieties (both imported and from foreign affiliates) are well over 50% larger than that stemming from imported varieties alone.

–Stata code from this paper included in *The Zeuthen Lectures* given by Robert Feenstra.

*Investigating the Asymptotic Properties of Elasticity of Substitution Estimates*. Forthcoming in Economics Letters,

Feenstra (1994) is widely implemented in international trade to estimate elasticities of substitution in the presence of a complicated simultaneous equations problem without exogenous regressors. Motivated by recent econometric findings, I create a monte carlo experiment which; 1) examines the estimators asymptotic volatility and small sample properties along both time and product dimensions, 2) investigates the effects of measurement error and 3) discusses weak instruments and the impact of alternate estimation techniques. I simulate large biases in the estimator for small samples, but the structural form of the elasticity of substitution derived from constructed parameters drastically mitigates these biases.

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

**Research Assistant,**

Christopher Knittel and Victor Stango, Fall 2008 - Present.

–Knittel, Christopher R., *Automobiles on Steroids: Product Attribute Trade-Offs and Technological Progress in the Automobile Sector*. Revisions for *American Economic Review*

–Knittel, Christopher R. and Victor Stango, *How Does Incompatibility Affect Prices?: Evidence from ATMs*. *The Journal of Industrial Economics* LVII (3) September 2009.

–Knittel, Christopher R. and Victor Stango, *The Productivity Benefits of IT Outsourcing*.

Deborah Swenson, Summer 2008.

–Swenson, Deborah. *Bilateral Investment Treaties and International Integration*.

Bruce Blonigen, Summer 2005 - Spring 2006.

–Blonigen, Bruce and Wes Wilson. *Foreign Subsidization and Excess Capacity*. Forthcoming in the *Journal of International Economics*.

–U.S. Countervailing Duty Database.

**Teaching,**

International Trade Assistant, Spring 2008.  
Intermediate Microeconomics Assistant, Winter 2008.  
Introduction to Microeconomics Assistant, Fall 2006 - Fall 2007.  
Mathematics Tutor, *University of Oregon*, Fall 2003 - Spring 2006.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Measuring the Benefits of Product Variety with an Accurate Variety Set** (*with Bruce Blonigen*).

*Macro/International Brownbag Series* (2009), University of California, Davis.  
*The Empirical Investigations of International Trade* (2009), Purdue University (by coauthor).  
Columbia University (2009) and George Washington University (2009) (by coauthor).

**The Competitive Effects of Heterogeneous Firms Facing Capacity Constraints Under International Trade.**

*Midwest Trade Conference* (2010), Northwestern University.  
*Macro/International Brownbag Series* (2010), University of California, Davis.

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

**Referee:** Empirical Economics

**HONORS AND AWARDS:**

Graduate Teaching Award, Spring 2011.  
UCD and Humanities Graduate Research Fellowship, Fall 2010.  
Phi Beta Kappa Member, Spring 2006 - Present.  
AFT Union Plus Essay Scholarship, Fall 2005 - Spring 2006.  
Rossman Scholarship, Fall 2005 - Spring 2006.  
Laurel Award, Fall 2004 - Spring 2005.  
Dean's List Scholar, Fall 2002- Spring 2006.  
Resident Dean's Scholarship, Fall 2002 - Spring 2006.  
Member of National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Fall 2002.  
Member of National Honor Society, Fall 2002.

## REFERENCES

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