

JAN DAVID BAKKER

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CURRENT POSITION AND AFFILIATIONS

Assistant Professor , Bocconi University	<i>2021 -</i>
Research Associate, Centre for Economic Performance	<i>2019 -</i>
Research Associate, Institute for Fiscal Studies	<i>2019 -</i>
Affiliate, CESifo Research Network	<i>2023 -</i>
Affiliate, IEP@BU	<i>2023 -</i>
Affiliate, Innocenzo Gasparini Institute for Economic Research (IGIER)	<i>2021 -</i>
Affiliate, Baffi	<i>2022 -</i>

EDUCATION

DPhil in Economics , University of Oxford (University College)	<i>2016 - 2019</i>
MPhil in Economics , University of Oxford (Nuffield College)	<i>2013 - 2015</i>
BSc in International Economics , University of Tübingen	<i>2009 - 2013</i>
Visiting student, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	<i>2012 - 2013</i>

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Macroeconomics, International Economics, Urban Economics

TEACHING

Bocconi University

International Economics (lecturer, undergraduate)	<i>2021 -</i>
International Trade (lecturer, graduate)	<i>2021 -</i>
International Trade (lecturer, PhD)	<i>2022 -</i>
International Trade and Urban Economics (convenor, PhD reading group)	<i>2022</i>

London School of Economics

Guest lecture on quantitative spatial economics (lecturer, PhD)	<i>2024</i>
International Economics (lecturer, undergraduate summer school)	<i>2022</i>
Global Market Economics (TA for Andy Bernard and Emily Blanchard, Executive MPA)	<i>2018 - 2020</i>

University of Oxford (St. Catherine's College)

Introduction to Macroeconomics (Tutorial Fellow, undergraduate)	<i>2016 - 2017</i>
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Eberhard Karls University Tübingen

Public Economics (TA, undergraduate)	<i>2010 - 2012</i>
Intermediate Macroeconomics (TA, undergraduate)	
Intermediate Microeconomics (TA, undergraduate)	
Introduction to Economics (TA, undergraduate)	

HONORS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

PRIN (with Andrea Ariu and Davide del Prete, €234,000)	2023
BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grant (with Nikhil Datta, £10,000)	2023
Bocconi Junior Researcher Grant (€10,000)	2022
Economic Journal Referee Prize	2021
CEP Research Grant (£10,000)	2020
UCL Harvesting Research Grants (£1,000)	2020
WTO Essay Award for Young Economists	2019
Kraks Fond Prize for Best Student Paper at the 8th European Meeting of the UEA	2018
Best Paper Award at the 17th Annual GEP/CEPR Post-graduate conference	2018
Best Paper Award at the 18th RIEF Doctoral Meeting	2018
Oxford Chellgren Graduate Scholarship and ESRC Studentship	2016 - 2018
Fellowship of the German Academic Exchange Service	2014 - 2015
Fellowship of the German National Academic Foundation	2009 - 2015

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT AND RESEARCH VISITS

Visiting Researcher, Tuck School of Business, Dartmouth College	09/2024
Visiting Researcher, Chicago Booth	10/2023
Junior Trade Fellow, LMU Munich	06-07/2021
Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, University College London	2019 - 2021
Senior Expert, LSE Consulting	2018, 2020
Trainee, European Central Bank	2015 - 2016
Research Assistant, Centre for Economic Performance	2016 - 2019
Visiting Researcher, Santa Fe Institute	2013
Visiting Researcher, Institute for New Economic Thinking, Oxford Martin School	2013
Research Assistant, Eberhard Karls University Tübingen	2010 - 2012
Volunteer, German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Auroville Int. e.V.	2008 - 2009

INVITED SEMINARS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 University College London, University of Birmingham, Ausschuss für Regionaltheorie und -politik (VfS), Birkbeck University of London, Bielefeld University
- 2023 CREAM Workshop, Geneva Trade and Development Workshop (GTDW), 12th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, 17th Csef-Igier Symposium 17th North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association,
- 2022 University of Geneva, Hong Kong Trade Seminar, Kiel Institute for the World Economy, University of Munich, Paris International Economics Seminar, University of Zurich, IEB Workshop on Urban Economics
- 2021 Aarhus University, Bocconi University, Carlos III, ECARES (ULB), ESSEC Business School, Queen Mary University of London, Universidad EAFIT, University of Amsterdam, University of Bielefeld, University of Bristol, University of Surrey, NBER SI Urban Economics
- 2020 London School of Economics (internal WS), University College London (internal WS), UEA Virtual Meeting, City University of London
- 2019 University of Oxford (internal WS), London School of Economics (internal WS), 9th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, European Trade Study Group, 14th American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association
- 2018 London School of Economics (internal WS), University of Oxford (internal WS), University of Düsseldorf (DICE), Tinbergen Institute Annual Conference, 18th RIEF Doctoral Meeting, 8th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, 17th Annual GEP/CEPR Post-graduate conference, RES Symposium for Junior Researchers
- 2017 University of Oxford (internal WS), Royal Economic Society Annual Conference, Economic Geography and International Trade Research Meeting (EGIT)
- 2016 Ifo Dresden Workshop “Regional Economics”.
- 2013 Graduate Workshop at INET Annual Conference, IPE Undergraduate Research Conference.

INVITED KEYNOTES

- Special Economic Zones: Lessons from Developing Countries Workshop, IfW Kiel 2023

REFEREEING

Econometrica, Economic Journal, Economica, Economic Inquiry, European Economic Review, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of International Economics, Journal of Urban Economics, Nature: Cities, Oxford Economic Papers, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies, World Economy

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR ORGANIZATION

- Spatial Economics Junior Workshop, co-organizer 2024
- European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, member of scientific committee 2024
- 12th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, local co-organizer 2023
- Online Spatial and Urban Seminar (OSUS), co-organizer 2021 - 2023
- RIEF board member 2022 -
- GEP graduate conferences, member of scientific committee 2021
- RES Symposium of Junior Researchers, member of scientific committee 2017 - 2018

WORKING PAPERS

Cities, Heterogeneous Firms and Trade,
(with Alvaro Garcia-Marin, Andrei Potlogea, Nico Voigtlaender and Yang Yang),

This paper combines independent work by Bakker and Garcia-Marin et al. Previous single-authored versions of this paper, circulated as “Trade and Agglomeration: Theory and Evidence from France” and “International Trade and Regional Inequality”, received the following awards:

WTO Essay Award for Young Economists 2019

Kraks Fond prize for Best Student Paper at 8th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association

Best Paper Award at the 17th Annual GEP/CEPR Post-graduate conference

Best Paper Award at the 18th RIEF Doctoral Meeting

We document a novel stylized fact: Using data for several countries, we show that export activity is disproportionately concentrated in larger cities – even more so than overall economic activity. We account for this fact by marrying elements of international trade and economic geography. We extend a standard quantitative spatial economics model to include heterogeneous firms that engage in selection along two margins: Entry into cities of heterogeneous productivity and entry into exporting. The model allows us to study the implications of trade policy for within-country economic geography and of geographic policies for international trade. Our model delivers novel predictions for the bi-directional interactions between trade and urban dynamics: On the one hand, trade liberalization shifts employment towards larger cities, and on the other hand, liberalizing land use increases international trade integration. We structurally estimate the model using data for the universe of Chinese manufacturing and French firms.

The cost of economic nationalism: Evidence from consumer prices after Brexit,

(with Nikhil Datta, Richard Davies and Josh De Lyon), *CEP Discussion Paper 1888*

Economic nationalism is on the rise and, for the first time in history, has led to a reversal of deep international economic integration. The UK left the European Union in 2021, causing an increase in non-tariff barriers (NTBs) to trade. In this paper, we provide the first causal evidence on how the reversal of deep economic integration affects consumers. We show that products more reliant on imports from the EU experienced a 6% higher price growth after Brexit. This price growth has been driven by products that face high NTBs, while products that are not subject to NTBs did not experience a significant price increase post Brexit. Based on a standard welfare framework, we show households lost £6.3bn, domestic producers gained £4.8bn, and £1.5bn was lost through deadweight loss. Due to differences in food expenditure shares, households in the lowest decile experience a 52% higher increase in the cost of living than households in the top decile.

Agents, Landlords and Tenants: Market Structure in the Rental Market,

(with Nikhil Datta)

This paper examines the impacts of new policies aimed at reducing the cost of renting by regulating the actions of letting agents in the housing market. Specifically, the study focuses on the introduction of the Tenant Fee Act (TFA) in the UK in 2019, which capped tenant fees charged by letting agents resulting in a negative revenue shock. We combine a conceptual framework of the interconnected markets for rental properties and letting agent services with a rich dataset that includes rental properties, letting agency prices, and property sales data to analyze the implications of the policy on prices, quantities, and market dynamics. Empirically agencies passed 20-30% of the shock to landlords, leading to some agency switching among landlords, indicating an elasticity of demand of -1.8 suggesting the market for letting agency services deviates strongly from perfect competition. There was no statistically significant change in final listing prices, suggesting tenants are sensitive to rental prices, conversely we find a lack of sensitivity to tenant fees. Landlords who did not switch agencies attempted to pass on the cost shock to renters but were unable to do so. The study also reveals no evidence of market exit for agencies or landlords, assuaging concerns of adverse effects on the supply of rental properties. Overall, the policy successfully reduced renting costs, and reduced super-normal profits of letting agents and landlords without any adverse general equilibrium effects.

PUBLICATIONS

Of Mice and Merchants: Connectedness and the Location of Economic Activity in the Iron Age,

(with Stephan Maurer, Jörn-Steffen Pischke and Ferdinand Rauch), *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 103.4 (2021), Pages 652-665.

We study the causal relationship between geographic connectedness and development using one of the earliest massive trade expansions: the first systematic crossing of open seas in the Mediterranean during the time of the Phoenicians. We construct a geography based measure of connectedness along the shores of the sea. We relate connectedness to economic activity, which we measure using the presence of archaeological sites. We find an association between better connected locations and archaeological sites during the Iron Age, at a time when sailors began to cross open water routinely on a big scale. We corroborate these findings at world level.

Migration and Urbanisation in Post-Apartheid South Africa,

(with Chris Parsons and Ferdinand Rauch),
World Bank Economic Review, 34 (2020), Pages 509-532

Although Africa has experienced rapid urbanization in recent decades, little is known about the process of urbanization across the continent. This paper exploits a natural experiment, the abolition of South African pass laws, to explore how exogenous population shocks affect the spatial distribution of economic activity. Under apartheid, black South Africans were severely restricted in their choice of location, and many were forced to live in homelands. Following the abolition of apartheid they were free to migrate. Given a migration cost in distance, a town nearer to the homelands will receive a larger inflow of people than a more distant town following the removal of mobility restrictions. Drawing upon this exogenous variation, this study examines the effect of migration on urbanization in South Africa. While it is found that on average there is no endogenous adjustment of population location to a positive population shock, there is heterogeneity in the results. Cities that start off larger do grow endogenously in the wake of a migration shock, while rural areas that start off small do not respond in the same way. This heterogeneity indicates that population shocks lead to an increase in urban relative to rural populations. Overall, the evidence suggests that exogenous migration shocks can foster urbanization in the medium run.

How Well Do Experience Curves Predict Technological Progress? A Method for Making Distributional Forecasts,

(with Francois Lafond, Aimee Bailey, Dylan Rebois, Rubina Zadourian, Patrick McSharry, Doayne Farmer)

Technological Forecasting & Social Change, 128 (2018), Pages 104-117,

Experience curves are widely used to predict the cost benefits of increasing the deployment of a technology. But how good are such forecasts? Can one predict their accuracy a priori? In this paper we answer these questions by developing a method to make distributional forecasts for experience curves. We test our method using a dataset with proxies for cost and experience for 51 products and technologies and show that it works reasonably well. The framework that we develop helps clarify why the experience curve method often gives similar results to simply assuming that costs decrease exponentially. To illustrate our method we make a distributional forecast for prices of solar photovoltaic modules.

POLICY REPORTS

Brexit and consumer food prices: May 2023 update
(with Nikhil Datta, Richard Davies and Josh De Lyon),
CEP BrexitAnalysis18, 2023

Post-Brexit imports, supply chains, and the impact on prices

(with Nikhil Datta, Josh De Lyon, Luisa Opitz, and Dilan Yang),
in *Portes J. (eds.): The Economics of Brexit: What Have We Learned?*, CEPR Press, 2022

Vulnerabilities of Supply Chains Post-Brexit (with N. Datta, J. De Lyon and E. Garnizova),
LSE Consulting, 2020

The impact of Brexit on the UK dairy sector (with N. Datta), *LSE Consulting*, 2018

OTHER

Software: ArcGIS, Latex, Matlab, Python, Stata

Languages: German (native), English (fluent), Italian (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate), French (basic)

Nationality: German, UK Settled Status