

STEPHEN SUN

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Appointments:

Assistant Adjunct Professor, Hitotsubashi Institute for Advanced Study, 2017-

Education:

Ph.D. in Economics, University of California, Davis, 2017

M.S. in Physics, Stanford University, 2009

B.S. in Physics, UCLA, 2003

Areas of Interest:

Economic History, Economic Development, International Trade

Working Papers:

“Seeds of American Industry: Economic Geography and Agriculture”

“Diversification and Development: The United States, 1870-1938”

Work in Progress:

“From the Ground Up: Adapting Local Experience to Exports”

Teaching Experience:

2015 – 2016	Teaching Assistant, UC Davis Economic History of the United States Intro Micro Theory
2012	Teaching Assistant, UC Davis Intermediate Micro Theory
2010	Teaching Assistant, UC Davis World Economic History Before the Industrial Revolution

Grants:

2018	Research Grants for Young Researchers, Hitotsubashi University
2018	Young Researchers Conference Attendance Grants, Hitotsubashi University
2013	All-UC Group in Economic History Graduate Student Research Grant

Recent Conference and Seminar Presentations:

2018	The Sixth Asian Historical Economics Conference
2018	Kobe University Kanematsu Seminar - Seeds of American Industry
2017	Hitotsubashi CEI/Economic Development Workshop - Seeds of American Industry
2017	HIAS Seminar - From the Ground Up: Adapting Local Experience to Exports
2017	All-UC Caltech Economic History Conference - The Spatial Distribution of Economic Activity and Inequality over the Long Run

Abstracts of Working Papers:

“Seeds of American Industry: Economic Geography and Agriculture”

This article examines the degree to which a large potential market influences the location of new industries using the case of the 19th century United States' agricultural implements industry. This industry was highly innovative at the time, and it is also distinguished by having linkages with both the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Its output is sold primarily in rural areas, which creates exceptional product-level spatial variation in demand. Proximity to demand and spillovers are both found to have strongly significant effects, with the impact of proximity to demand being larger by about half. The most complex implements are also associated with higher concentration of skilled labor. Together, these results show that agriculture provided a foundation for the development of advanced manufacturing in the United States.

“Diversification and Development: The United States, 1870-1938”

This article contributes new evidence from the United States to the literature on the relationship between export diversification and economic growth. I examine the transformation of the foreign trade of the United States from being very narrowly focused on the export of fuel and agricultural goods to being involved in the trade of comparatively lower volumes of a wide variety of manufactures for the period 1870 to 1938. Though the United States starts the period being quite specialized, it diversifies continuously without reaching a level of income where re-concentration occurs during the interwar period. A comparison of the specialization pattern of American exports with the dutiable and overall tariff levels indicates that tariff levels for protected industries remain high, but that many untaxed goods remain duty-free as they grow in importance, lowering the effective tariff level.