

Contact Information:

30-31 Buccleuch Place
EH8 9JT, Edinburgh, UK
Phone: +44 774 171 4875

Employment:

2022-present Early Career Researcher in Economics, University of Edinburgh
2021-2022 Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Hong Kong

Undergraduate Studies:

2013 Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours), University of Hong Kong

Graduate Studies:

2014 Master in Specialised Economic Analysis, Barcelona GSE
2016 Master in Economics and Finance (Final Grade: A), CEMFI
2021 Ph.D. in Economics (Cum Laude), CEMFI
Thesis Committee: Diego Puga (Advisor), Paula Bustos and Nezh Guner

Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary: Urban Economics, International Trade, Economic Geography
Secondary: Labour Economics, Economic History

Graduate Teaching:

2022/2023 to present International Trade (lectures and course organiser), University of Edinburgh
2022/2023 to present Basic Statistics (lectures), University of Edinburgh
2018/2019 Uncertainty and Information (tutorials), CEMFI
2017/2018, 2018/2019 Introduction to Making Maps Using GIS (lectures), CEMFI

Undergraduate Teaching:

2022/2023 to present Development, Inequality and Trade (lectures, tutorials and course organiser), University of Edinburgh
2022/2023, 2023/2024 Topics in Microeconomics (tutorials), University of Edinburgh
2022/2023 to present Applications of Econometrics (tutorials), University of Edinburgh
Summer 2018&2019 Big Data Management with Python (lectures), CEMFI

Dissertation Supervision:

2023/2024 9 undergraduate dissertations and 1 master dissertation
2022/2023 10 undergraduate dissertations

Service:

2024/2025 Cohort Lead, University of Edinburgh
2019, 2020 Scientific Committee of RES Symposium of Junior Researchers

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2017-2020 CEMFI, *Research Assistant for Professor Diego Puga*
2016-2017 CEMFI, *Research Assistant for Professor Joan Monras*
Summer 2015 Bank of Spain, Microeconomic Studies Division, *Research Assistant for Ernesto Villanueva*

Presentations:

2024	Bristol Applied Economics Meetings, IEB Workshop in Urban Economics
2023	RES and SES Annual Conference, GEP/CEPR Postgraduate Conference, EEA-ESEM congress, Women in International Economics Conference
2021	European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, Virtual Economic History Seminar, CES North America Virtual Conference
2020	Virtual Econometrics Society European Winter Meeting, Virtual North East Universities Development Consortium, Virtual Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, CES North America Virtual Conference
2019	Econometrics Society European Winter Meeting, Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, LSE Economic History Graduate Seminar, UC3M Applied Reading Group, European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association
2018	Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, CAGE&IAS Summer School
2017	Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture European Conference, Summer School in Urban Economics, Econometrics Society Asian Meeting

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2018-2021	Spanish Ministry of Economics and Competitiveness Pre-Doctoral Grant (ID: BES-2017-082187)
2018-2021	Maria de Maeztu Ph.D. Scholarship
2018-2021	UIMP Travel Grant
2016-2018	Ph.D. Scholarship-ERC Advanced Grant Agreement (ID: 695107-DYNURBAN, PI: Professor Diego Puga)
2014-2016	CEMFI Master Scholarship
2009-2012	Deans's Honours List
2012	HSBC Scholarship for Mainland Students
2011	Hong Kong University Alumni Prizes
2011	C.V.Starr Scholarships

Languages: Chinese (native), Spanish (intermediate)

Technical Skills: Stata, Python, MATLAB, R, ArcGIS, LaTeX

Research Papers:

“The Roadblock Effect”

This paper investigates a novel “roadblock effect,” whereby temporary forced route changes catalyse the adoption of a new transport technology. The Taiping Rebellion in 19th-century China ravaged many cities, but also blocked key inland routes, triggering investments facilitating steamship trade. Combining a trade model featuring modal and route choice, shipping records, and a new method to estimate historical transport costs, I show that the post-rebellion spatial variation in maritime trade was driven by blocked inland routes and the feasibility of sea alternatives. This moved many trade routes to the sea and shifted population towards port cities.

“Bureaucrats’ Networks and Career Progression: Evidence from the Chinese Maritime Customs Service” with Stephan Maurer

This paper studies the effect of social networks on career trajectories within China’s first modern bureaucratic organisation. We digitised personnel records from the Chinese Maritime Customs Service and created a unique panel dataset of Chinese customs officers from 1876 to 1911, tracking their entry, inter-station transfers, career progression, exit, and the evolution of their social networks. We find that social networks among minority groups had a positive impact on career advancement in a workplace primarily composed of Cantonese-origin officers, while no comparable network effect was found for Cantonese-origin officers.

“Rushed to the Altar: The Effect of Social Interactions on Migrant Workers’ Marriage Age”

This paper provides novel evidence that social interactions of rural-to-urban migrants enforce traditional norms. Using variation of social pressure to conform to rural norms from migrants from the same hometown in the workplace, we find that the concentration of same-origin co-workers substantially increases the likelihood of early marriage for female rural-to-urban migrants in China, but not for male migrants. Consistent with the norm-based explanation for the association between social interactions and early marriage, the gender-differential effect is more pronounced for migrants from regions with more traditional gender norms. The effect is not driven by matching or self-selection into social interactions.

“School Quality vs Air Pollution” with Radine Rafols and Yu Zhu