

Lidong Yang

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yanglidong_econ@163.com

<https://lidongyang-econ.weebly.com>

China Economic Research Institute

Liaoning University, Shenyang, China

Professional Experience

Assistant Professor, CERI, Liaoning University

2026-present

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, George Washington University

2026

Dissertation: "Essays on International Trade and Economic Development"

Committee: Maggie X. Chen, Yingyan Zhao, Ariel Weinberger

M.Phil. in Economics, George Washington University

2023

M.A. in Economics, Boston University

2018

B.S. in Economics, Sichuan University

2016

Research Fields

Primary: International Trade, Development Economics

Secondary: Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Working Papers

Do All Inputs Matter? Export Market Expansion, Capital Goods Adoption, and Upgrading
([Job Market Paper](#))

Impact of Import Tariffs on Retail Prices: Evidence from the 2018 U.S.–China Trade War (with
[Angela Qin](#))

Does FDI Liberalization Promote Gender Wage Equity? Evidence from Urban China

Teaching Experience

Instructor

Math Camp for incoming economics PhD students

Summer 2020, Summer 2021

Teaching Assistant

Microeconomics Theory I (PhD)	Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022
Microeconomics Theory II (PhD)	Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023
Game Theory (undergraduate)	Spring 2019
Principles of Microeconomics (undergraduate)	Fall 2019

Presentations

2027	ASSA 2027 (Washington, DC)*
2026	Midwest International Trade Conference (Ohio State University)
2025	14th Annual Washington Area International Trade Symposium (Washington, DC)*, Annual Job Market Symposium (George Washington University)
2024	Micro Brown-Bag Seminar (George Washington University)

*: poster session

Skills

Software: Stata, MATLAB, R, $\LaTeX$, MS Excel

Languages: Chinese (native), English (fluent)

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Do All Inputs Matter? Export Market Expansion, Capital Goods Adoption, and Upgrading (Job Market Paper)

Abstract: How do firms respond to expanding export markets? Firms in developing countries may upgrade by accessing high-quality inputs, skilled workers, and advanced technologies used in industrialized economies. While the effects of accessing intermediate inputs (e.g., raw materials) have been well documented, little is known about the impact driven by capital goods (e.g., machinery and equipment). This paper fills this gap by emphasizing capital goods adoption as a key driver of both product and process upgrading. I exploit the removal of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement quotas in 2005 as a significant positive export demand shock for Chinese textile and apparel exporters. Using Customs data from 2001 to 2015 and detailed industry information, I identify direct machine imports at the firm level. The difference-in-differences analysis shows that: (i) firms with higher exposure to export market expansion are more likely to import high-end machines; (ii) machine-adopting firms are found to subsequently upgrade their products: exporting higher values and wider varieties of products, at higher prices and with improved quality, to more high-income countries; (iii) an increasing relative labor-capital share is observed, particularly among machine-adopting firms; (iv) these results are primarily driven by the intensive rather than the extensive margin. To rationalize these empirical findings, I develop a theoretical framework incorporating firms' capital goods adoption decisions and endogenous technological change. The model emphasizes the presence of fixed costs and adjustment frictions involved in adopting high-end machines. Welfare gains from trade may be underestimated if the unique role of capital goods in determining process upgrading is not taken into account.

Impact of Import Tariffs on Retail Prices: Evidence from the 2018 U.S.–China Trade War (with Angela Qin)

Abstract: Who ultimately bore the cost of the trade war tariffs? This paper examines the impact of import tariffs on consumer prices during the 2018 U.S.–China trade war. Instead of relying on aggregate import price data measured "at the port", we offer a more granular analysis using a novel dataset that links weekly retail price records for 9 categories of electronic products from 32 major U.S. retailers to highly disaggregated import tariff data from January 2017 to January 2020. After accounting for product life-cycle effects, event-study analysis reveals significant short-run retail price increases for categories directly affected by the initial tariff wave. In the medium to long run, pass-through is substantially mediated and varies across product, reflecting substitution effects as consumers shift demand toward untariffed products and firms reconfigure sourcing strategies. Moreover, categories subject to tariffs that were announced but never implemented experience larger price increases than those facing actual tariff increases, highlighting the influence of anticipation effects and trade uncertainty in shaping price dynamics. Two sources of heterogeneity are identified. First, premium brands demonstrate significantly higher pass-through than budget brands due to greater pricing power and more inelastic demand. Second, pass-through varies systematically across mass merchandisers, electronics specialty retailers, and telecom carriers, reflecting the distinct competitive constraints and business model incentives specific to each retail channel.