SHUO ZHANG

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EDUCATION

Syracuse University, Department of Economics

2021 - 2026 (Expected)

Ph.D. in Economics

Fields of Interest: Applied Microeconomics, Political Economy, International Trade

Renmin University of China, Hanqing Advanced Institute of Economics and Finance

M.A. in Economics 2018 - 2021

Sun Yat-sen University, Business School

2014 - 2018

B.A. in Business Administration (with honors)

JOB MARKET PAPER

Mass Mobilization and Political Change: Evidence from Hong Kong,

2nd Revision Requested, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization

Abstract: How important are mass protest events in driving political change among citizens? In this paper I exploit a globally-known event, the 2019 Anti-Extradition Law Amendment Bill Movement (ANTI-ELAB protest) in Hong Kong, and its impact on the subsequent 2019 Hong Kong District Council Election. Taking advantage of a granular dataset of organized events during the protest, I exploit spatial variation in protest intensity, as measured by the number of events, across Constituency Areas. Empirical results show that in Constituency Areas with higher protest intensity, there were larger increases in voter turnout in the 2019 District Council Election compared to 2015. The effect is primarily driven by local events, suggesting that proximate mobilization and interpersonal interactions play a crucial role in shaping political engagement. To strengthen causal interpretation, I employ a set of public transportation accessibility measures as instrumental variables. Additional analyses reveal that protest intensity also affected people's political stances, leading to a pronounced decline in neutral positions and an overall shift toward the Prodemocracy camp. These findings contribute to the emerging literature on the political consequences of protest and offer new insights into studying within-city-level social unrest.

PUBLICATION

How Does People's Liberation Army Related Business Closure Affect Local Economy?

with Haozhe Han, China Economic Review, (2023) No.101890.

WORKING PAPERS

Bots and Trade at the Ballot Box: The Impact of Automation and Imports on U.S. Elections, with Devashish Mitra and Yang Liang

End of Covid, Start of Death? Cross-border Consumption and the Hong Kong Food Industry, with Haozhe Han and Yichi Zhang

WORK IN PROGRESS

Who Survived the U.S.-China Trade War? Evidence from Chinese Exporters, with Laura E. Connolly, Yang Liang, and Jiajun Lu

Structual Change and Food Trade, with Hannes Malmberg, Devashish Mitra, and Abdulaziz Shifa

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025: Society for Hong Kong Studies Workshop, Syracuse University

2024: CES North America Annual Conference, New York Camp Econometrics XVIII (*Poster session*), Western Economic Association International Conference, North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, Defence & Security Economics Workshop, Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting

2023: Syracuse University

2021: Peking University, Renmin University of China

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for Prof. Devashish Mitra (Professor at SU)

2023 - present

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor	
Intermediate Microeconomics	Summer 2025
Teaching Assistant	
Microeconomics II (Ph.D. level), Prof. Áron Tóbiás	Spring 2023
Microeconomics I (Ph.D. level), Prof. Áron Tóbiás	Fall 2022
Microeconomic Theory (Ph.D. level), Prof. Kristy Buzard	Fall 2022
Mathematics for Economists (Ph.D. level), Prof. William Horrace	Summer 2022
The Economics of Social Issues, Prof. Chung-Chin Liu	Spring 2022
Introductory Microeconomics, Prof. Chung-Chin Liu	Fall 2021

HONORS AND AWARDS

Pre-dissertation Fellowship, Syracuse University	Summer 2024
Graduate Assistantship, Syracuse University	2021 - 2026
First Prize Scholarship, Renmin University of China	2019
Outstanding Thesis of Undergraduate, Sun Yat-sen University	2018
First Prize Scholarship, Sun Yat-sen University	2016, 2017
National Scholarship, Ministry of Education of China	2016

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Referee Service: *Economic Inquiry*

SKILLS

Languages: Chinese (Mandarin, Teochew, Cantonese) (Native), English (Fluent)

Software: Stata, Matlab, LATEX, ArcGIS, Mathematica

REFERENCES

Devashish Mitra (Co-Chair)

Gerald B. & Daphna Cramer Professor Department of Economics Syracuse University dmitra@syr.edu +1 (315) 443-6143

Yang Liang

Associate Professor Department of Economics San Diego State University yang.liang@sdsu.edu

Abdulaziz Shifa (Co-Chair)

Associate Professor Department of Economics Syracuse University abshifa@syr.edu +1 (315) 443-3802

Thomas Pearson

Assistant Professor Department of Economics Syracuse University tpears01@syr.edu

John Cawley (Placement Director)

Professor & Daniel Patrick Moynihan Chair in Public Policy Department of Economics Syracuse University jhcawley@syr.edu