

# GE SONG

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Department of Economics  
University of Colorado Boulder  
256 UCB  
Boulder, CO 80309, USA

Phone: +1 (720) 651 26 39  
E-mail: Ge.Song@colorado.edu  
Citizenship: P. R. China (F1 Visa)  
<https://sites.google.com/view/gesong>

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Primary: International Trade, Globalization  
Secondary: Empirical IO, Political Economy, Applied Econometrics

## EDUCATION

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Ph.D. in Economics, University of Colorado Boulder	May 2023
Dissertation: “Essays on International Trade, Firms’ Corruption, and Internal Trade Costs”	(Expected)
Committee: Jeronimo Carballo (Co-Chair), Sergey Nigai (Co-Chair), Wolfgang Keller, Murat lyigun	
M.A. in Economics, University of Colorado Boulder	May 2019
M.A. in Economics, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne	Aug 2016
M.A. in Economics, Fudan University	Jun 2016
B.A. in Finance, East China University of Political Science and Law	Jun 2014

## JOB MARKET PAPER

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- “Trade Liberalization and Firms’ Corruption Engagement: Theory and Evidence from China”

This paper studies the role of trade liberalization in shaping domestic corruption. I develop a model of trade with heterogeneous firms that features endogenous corruption and export participation decisions. In the model, firms face a trade-off between engaging in corruption, thereby obtaining higher profits in the domestic market, or preserving their non-corrupt status in foreign markets to obtain higher export profits. I predict that in equilibrium there is an inverted U-shaped relationship between firm productivity/size and corruption engagement. This prediction is confirmed in firm-level and aggregate data on international trade. I then calibrate the model to China and evaluate the extent to which trade policy is an effective tool for fighting domestic corruption. My findings suggest that (i) the share of firms that are “missing from trade” due to domestic corruption is 1%; (ii) conditional on the same reduction in the level of domestic corruption, trade liberalization is preferable to direct anti-corruption campaigns in terms of the associated gains in consumer welfare.

## WORKING PAPERS

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- “Internal Trade Costs and Firms’ Export Performance: Evidence from Firm-to-Port Distance in China”

Internal trade costs are vitally influential on international trade. This paper examines the impact of internal trade costs on firms’ export performance by exploiting variation in firm-to-port distance. To fix ideas, I incorporate internal trade costs as a domestic component of total bilateral trade costs into a canonical model of trade with heterogeneous firms. The model predicts that a firm’s exports to a destination decrease in internal trade costs, conditional on firm productivity, bilateral components of trade costs, and destination-specific market demand. Using a 7-year panel of merged firm-level dataset linking information on production, balance sheets, exports, and geographic locations, I construct a measure of internal trade costs by a weighted average of firm-to-port distance using trade shares by port as weights. By exploiting the within-year and within-year-destination variation in firm-level distance to ports, I identify the impact of internal trade costs on firms’ export values for each year available in the dataset. My findings show that (i) when internal trade costs increase by 10%, on average, firms’ export values decrease by 1.5%; and (ii) the impact of internal trade costs on firm-level exports decreases in magnitude over the dataset time periods.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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- “The Political Economy of Export Promotion: Evidence from Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Votes”  
*with Colin Jareb and Danny Kurban*
- “Does Domestic Corruption Affect International Trade Through Reputation Channels? Country-level Evidence from Bilateral Trade Flows”
- “The Economic Geography of High-Speed Railway Expansion: Evidence from China”
- “Firms’ Location Switch and Emission Regulations: Evidence from Chinese Manufacturing Firms”

## PRE-PHD PUBLICATIONS

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- Ge Song (2016), “Asymmetric Technology Diffusion, Nominal Wage Rigidity, and the New Normal in China”, *Economics*, Vol. 5, No. 3, pp. 27-45.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCES

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University of Colorado Boulder (Average Instructor Rating 5.3/6, Dpt. Average 4.7/6)

- Instructor, Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory, CU Boulder, 2019, 2020, 2022
- Instructor, Mathematical Tools 1 for Economists, CU Boulder, 2021, 2022
- Teaching Assistant, CU Boulder, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022
  - Ph.D. level: Microeconomic Theory 2, Econometrics, Microeconomic Theory 1, Mathematical Statistics
  - Undergraduate Level: Principles of Microeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics, Introduction to Statistics, Applied Econometrics

## RECENT CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

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- Midwest International Trade Conference, University of Notre Dame, 2022
- Asia-Pacific Productivity Conference, National Taiwan University, 2022
- International Trade Workshop, University of Colorado Boulder, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022
- Economics Graduate Student Workshop, University of Colorado Boulder, 2021, 2022
- Applied Econometrics Workshop, University of Colorado Boulder, 2021, 2022
- Industrial Organization Workshop, University of Colorado Boulder, 2022

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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- Reuben A. Zubrow Fellowship in Economics, CU Boulder, 2020, 2022
- Robert and Lauri McNown Award, CU Boulder, 2019
- Sieglinde Talbott Haller Endowed Economics Scholarship Fund (upper 10% class standing), CU Boulder, 2018
- Graduate Endowment Fellowship, CU Boulder, 2017

## PERSONAL INFORMATION/COMPUTER AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

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- Born: 02/04/1992; Citizenship: People’s Republic of China
- Computer: Matlab, Stata, Python, R, SAS, ArcGIS, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Microsoft Office
- Language: Mandarin Chinese (Native), English (Fluent), French (A1)

## REFERENCES

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**Jeronimo Carballo** (Co-Advisor)  
Department of Economics  
University of Colorado Boulder  
Boulder, Colorado 80309, USA  
Phone: +1 (303) 735 78 16  
Jeronimo.Carballo@colorado.edu

**Wolfgang Keller**  
Department of Economics  
University of Colorado Boulder  
Boulder, Colorado 80309, USA  
Phone: +1 (303) 735 55 07  
Wolfgang.Keller@colorado.edu

**Sergey Nigai** (Co-Advisor)  
Department of Economics  
University of Colorado Boulder  
Boulder, Colorado 80309, USA  
Phone: +1 (303) 492 07 48  
Sergey.Nigai@colorado.edu

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