

Fabian Eckert

Address: Department of Economics
Yale University
New Haven, CT 06520-8268

Telephone: +1 (203) 710-0124

E-mail: fabian.eckert@yale.edu

Web page: <http://www.fpeckert.me>

Citizenship: German, F1-Visa

Fields of Concentration:

Primary Field(s): International Trade, Macroeconomics
Secondary Field(s): Urban Economics

Desired Teaching:

International Trade, Spatial Economics, Macroeconomics

Comprehensive Examinations Completed:

2015 (Oral): Macroeconomics (with Distinction), International Trade
2014 (Written): Macroeconomics, Microeconomics

Dissertation Title: *Essays in Economic Geography and Inequality*

Committee:

Professor Costas Arkolakis
Professor Giuseppe Moscarini
Professor Samuel Kortum
Professor Michael Peters

Expected Completion Date: May 2019

Degrees:

Ph.D., Economics, Yale University, 2019 (expected)
M.Phil., Economics, Yale University, 2016
M.A., Economics, Yale University, 2016
BSc, Economics, University College London, 2013

Fellowships, Honors and Awards:

UAE Student Best Paper Runner Up (“Return to Big City Experience”), 2018

University Dissertation Fellowship, Yale University 2018
Raymond Powell Prize for Outstanding Graduate Teaching, 2017
Samuel K. Bushnell Fellow, Yale University 2017
Carl Arvid Anderson Prize Fellowship in Economics (\$15k), Yale University, 2015
John Y. Campbell Fellowship, 2014-2016
Yale University Doctoral Fellowship, 2013-2018
University College London, Dean's List Award (top 5% of cohort), 2013
German National Scholarship Foundation, 2011-2016
Bavarian Government Max Weber Scholarship (declined), 2010
German Physical Society (Outstanding Baccalaureate in Physics), 2010

Research Grants:

MacMillan Center International Dissertation Research Grant (\$16k), Yale University, 2017
Cowles Foundation Research Grant for Work in Denmark (\$2k), Yale University, 2017

Teaching Experience (at Yale University):

Teaching Fellow:

Economics PhD Math Camp, Prof. Truman Bewley, 2014
Intermediate Macroeconomics, Prof. Michael Peters, 2015
Intermediate Macroeconomics, Prof. Tony Smith, 2016
Graduate Macroeconomics, Prof. Giuseppe Moscarini, 2017
Herbert Scarf Undergraduate Research Program Instructor, 2016

Research and Work Experience:

Research Assistant to Prof. Costas Arkolakis, Yale University 2014-2015
Research Assistant to Prof. Richard Blundell, University College London, 2012
Research Assistant to Prof. Wendy Carlin, University College London, 2012

Working Papers:

“Growing Apart: Tradable Services and the Fragmentation of the U.S. Economy”, November 2018,
Job Market Paper

“The Return to Big City Experience: Evidence From Danish Refugees” with Mads Hejlesen and
Conor Walsh, August 2018

“Saving the American Dream? School Financing Reform to Decrease the Opportunity Gap across
US Regions” with Tatjana Kleineberg, November 2018

“Spatial Structural Change” with Michael Peters, February 2018

“Combinatorial Discrete Choice” with Costas Arkolakis, January 2017

“Refining the US Census Bureau's Published County Business Patterns Data, 1946-2016” with
Peter Schott and Natalie Yang, November 2018

“A Consistent County-Level Crosswalk for US Spatial Data since 1790” with Andres Gvartz and Michael Peters, June 2018

Seminar and Conference Presentations (* by coauthor)

“Growing Apart: Tradable Services and the Fragmentation of the U.S. Economy”: Yale

“The Return to Big City Experience”: Aarhus, Yale, NBER SI Urban Economics Group* (2018), SED Mexico City* (2018), SAET Taiwan* (2018), UAE New York City* (2018), Barcelona Summer School* (2018), EEA Cologne* (2018)

“Spatial Structural Change”: Yale, SAET Faro (2017), EEA Geneva (2017), SED Toulouse* (2015), NBER Macroeconomics Across Time and Space Philadelphia* (2016), SED Mexico City* (2018), NBER Trade And Geography Cambridge (2018), NBER SI Development* (2018), NBER SI Macroeconomics and Income Distribution* (2018), Stanford*, IIES*, EEA Cologne (2018)*, Minnesota*, University of Pennsylvania*, University of Munich*, Warwick*, Berkeley*

“Combinatorial Discrete Choice”: SED Edinburgh (2017), Yale, MIT* (Brown Bag), Columbia*, Econometrics Society Meetings (Hong Kong)*

“Can We Save the American Dream? A Dynamic General Equilibrium Analysis of the Effects of School Financing on Local Opportunities”: Yale, Harvard* (Brown Bag)

Professional Service:

Referee for *Economic Theory*

Organizer and Founder: Yale Macroeconomics Breakfast

Data Clearances:

Danish Matched Employer-Employee Data (IDA)

US Census Bureau Special Sworn Status

French CASD Access

Languages:

German (native), English (fluent), French (fluent)

References:

Prof. Costas Arkolakis
Yale University
Department of Economics
New Haven, CT 06520
PO Box 208264
Phone: (203) 432-3527
costas.arkolakis@yale.edu

Prof. Giuseppe Moscarini
Yale University
Department of Economics
New Haven, CT 06520
PO Box 208264
Phone: (203) 432-3596
giuseppe.moscarini@yale.edu

Prof. Samuel Kortum
Yale University
Department of Economics
New Haven, CT 06520
PO Box 208264
Phone: (203) 432-6323
samuel.kortum@yale.edu

Prof. Michael Peters
Yale University
Department of Economics
New Haven, CT 06520
PO Box 208264
Phone: (203) 436-2626
m.peters@yale.edu

Prof. Fabrizio Zilibotti
Yale University
Department of Economics
New Haven, CT 06520
PO Box 208264
Phone: (203) 432-9561
fabrizio.zilibotti@yale.edu

Dissertation Abstract

Growing Apart: Tradable Services and the Fragmentation of the U.S. Economy [Job Market Paper] Between 1980 and 2010, the college wage premium in U.S. labor markets with larger initial shares of high-skill service employment grew substantially faster than the nationwide average. I show how this trend can be explained within the context of a Ricardian model of interregional trade, where a reduction in communication costs magnifies regional specialization in high-skill services, raising the skill premium in service-exporting regions and reducing it in service-importing regions. Quantitatively, I show that the decline in communication costs I infer from sectoral trade imbalances can explain a substantial part of the differential skill premium growth across U.S. labor markets in the data. These regional changes aggregate to account for 30 percent of the rise in the overall U.S. college wage premium between 1980 and 2010.

Can We Save the American Dream? A Dynamic General Equilibrium Analysis of the Effects of School Financing on Local Opportunities (with Tatjana Kleineberg)

Neighborhoods in the United States differ substantially in the educational and economic opportunities they offer to children. General equilibrium effects complicate the analysis of policies that equalize school quality across localities: local wages, rents, and school funding respond to parents' residential choices. This paper proposes a dynamic spatial model to evaluate the long-run effects of education policies in spatial equilibrium. The framework incorporates costly migration across labor markets and dynastic human capital formation as a function of childhood location and parental background. Differential labor market access and endogenous and exogenous components of local school quality generate persistent effects of childhood neighborhoods on adult labor market outcomes. We estimate the model parameters on the realistic geography of the US. We show that a counterfactual policy equalizing government school funding across all students would have only moderate effects on intergenerational mobility in general equilibrium. Partial equilibrium analysis is shown to overestimate such effects.

Spatial Structural Change (with Michael Peters)

The US agricultural employment share fell from 40% to 3% over the last century. In this paper, we study the spatial implications of this process. We propose a new dynamic theory that embeds non-homothetic preferences into a spatial model to jointly analyze the sectoral and regional reallocation of workers between 1880 and 2000. Contrary to the conventional view, we find that the spatial reallocation of workers across counties accounts for almost none of the aggregate decline in agricultural employment. In particular, cross-county population flows, while large in the aggregate, were only weakly correlated with agricultural specialization. Labor mobility had important macroeconomic implications nevertheless. With prohibitive migration frictions, income per capita would have been 15% lower and spatial welfare inequality substantially higher. This effect on inequality would be especially pronounced among low-skilled agricultural workers, who were particularly exposed to the structural transformation.

The Return to Big City Experience (with Mads Hejlesen and Conor Walsh)

In this paper, we provide evidence for higher returns to experience in big cities. We exploit a government policy of quasi-random settlement of political refugees in Denmark between 1986 and 1998, which generated plausibly exogenous variation in workers' initial local labor market. Detailed matched employer-employee datasets allow us to track workers' location and labor market experience, including their employers. We show that the slope of a refugee's lifetime wage path depends strongly and positively on initial placement in the country's capital, Copenhagen. Conditional on observables, settled refugees initially earn similar hourly wages across regions, but those placed in Copenhagen see their wages grow 0.81% faster than others with each year of experience they accumulate. We further show that this premium is driven by the greater acquisition of experience at high-wage establishments and by differential sorting across occupations. Estimating a statistical spatial model of earnings dynamics reveals that sorting on unobserved ability within cities plays an important role in explaining observed patterns.