

ZHANG CHEN

HKUST, Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong
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EDUCATION

Princeton University, USA
PhD in Economics

August 2017 - July 2023

Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore
B.Sc. (Hon.) in Mathematics and Economics

Aug 2013 - June 2017

EMPLOYMENT

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), HKSAR
Assistant Professor

July 2024 -

Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance (EIEF), Italy
Postdoctoral Researcher

Sep 2023 - July 2024

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Firm Dynamics, Economic Growth, International Trade

PUBLICATIONS

Chen, Z. (forthcoming) “Discussion of “Human Capital as a Driver of Automation: Theory and Evidence from China’s College Expansion”, *International Economic Review*.

Chen, Z. (2026), “Economic Growth and the Rise of Large Firms.” *Econometrica*, 94: 1375-1408.

Chen, C., Z. Chen, and C. Sun. (2026). “Trade and FDI Policies in an Interdependent World: Lessons From East Asia.” *Asian Economic Policy Review*, 1–10.

WORKING PAPERS

Firm Entry and Market Interdependence (with Cheng Chen and Chang Sun)

Export by Cohort (with Qing Huang)

Knowledge Diffusion Through Networks (with Treb Allen, Kamran Bilir, and Christopher Tonetti)

WORK IN PROGRESS

The Life Cycle of the Labor Share (with Joao Monteiro and Liangjie Wu)

Product Design and Product Network Dynamics (with Ruiqi Sun and Dan Treffer)

SHORT-TERM VISITS

Visiting scholars at Cornell (2025), EIEF (2025, 2026), Cambridge (2027*)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

HKUST: Macroeconomics (Introduction level)

EIEF: Graduate Macroeconomics (Master, Instructor)

Princeton: Econometrics II (PhD, TA), Graduate Macroeconomics I (PhD, TA), International Macroeconomics (BA, TA)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for Professor Ezra Oberfield, Princeton University *Summer 2020*

Research Assistant for Professor Kamran Bilir, Princeton University *Summer 2019*

Research Assistant for Professor Markus Brunnermeier, Princeton University *Summer 2018*

HONORS AND AWARDS

Structural Transformation and Economic Growth (STEG) Ph.D. Grant *2022*

IES Summer Fellowship, Princeton *2019 - 2021*

Princeton University Graduate Fellowship *August 2017 - Present*

Best Final Year Thesis in Mathematics and Economics, NTU *2017*

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

Scheduled events are with *. Presentation by coauthors are with †.

2027: Aston*, Warwick*, Cambridge*, Nottingham*, Sussex*, LSE*

2026: NBER - EASE, CUFE CEMA, BSE Summer Forum[†], SED Athens, CUHK-SZ*

2025: EIEF, EUI, Fudan, U Tokyo, BSE Summer Forum, ESWC 25, RMET[†], ERWIT Oxford[†], HKUST-Jinan Macro Wrokshop, CICM

2024: STEG Annual Abu Dhabi, Bank of Italy, RMET, LMU Munich, IEFS Japan

2023: CES NA Oklahoma, BSE Summer Forum, SED Cartagena, EEA-ESEM Barcelona, EWMES Manchester, Carnegie Mellon University, Edinburgh, EIEF, HKU, HKUST, CUHK, CUHK-Shenzhen, SMU, PKU NSD

2022: Princeton Student Workshop (Macro, Trade), ASSA 2022 Annual Meeting (Poster)

2021: Princeton Student Workshop (Trade), CCER Summer Institute (PKU)

Conference organizers: HKUST-Jinan Macro Workshop (2025), Workshop of the East and South-East Asian Macroeconomic Society (2026 Fall)

REFeree SERVICE

Journal of International Economics, Journal of Political Economy: Macroeconomics, Economic Journal, International Economic Review, Review of Economic Dynamics, European Economic Review

LANGUAGES

English (fluent), Chinese (native)