

JAN DAVID BAKKER

Bocconi University, Department of Economics, Via Röntgen 1, 20136 Milan, Italy

jan.bakker@unibocconi.it

CURRENT POSITION AND AFFILIATIONS

Assistant Professor , Bocconi University	2021 -
Research Associate, Centre for Economic Performance	2019 -
Research Associate, Institute for Fiscal Studies	2019 -
Affiliate, CESifo Research Network	2023 -
Affiliate, IEP@BU	2023 -
Affiliate, Innocenzo Gasparini Institute for Economic Research (IGIER)	2021 -
Affiliate, Baffi	2022 -

EDUCATION

DPhil in Economics , University of Oxford (University College)	2016 - 2019
MPhil in Economics , University of Oxford (Nuffield College)	2013 - 2015
BSc in International Economics , University of Tübingen	2009 - 2013
Visiting student, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	2012 - 2013

RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Trade, Urban Economics

TEACHING

Bocconi University

International Economics (lecturer, undergraduate)	2021 -
International Trade (lecturer, graduate)	2021 -
International Trade (lecturer, PhD)	2022 -
International Trade and Urban Economics (convenor, PhD reading group)	2022

London School of Economics

International Economics (lecturer, undergraduate summer school)	2022
Global Market Economics (TA for Andy Bernard and Emily Blanchard, Executive MPA)	2018 - 2020

Eberhard Karls University Tübingen

Public Economics (TA, undergraduate)	2010 - 2012
Intermediate Macroeconomics (TA, undergraduate)	
Intermediate Microeconomics (TA, undergraduate)	
Introduction to Economics (TA, undergraduate)	

HONORS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

PRIN (with Andrea Ariu and Davide del Prete, €234k)	2023
BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grant (with N. Datta, £10,000)	2023
Bocconi Junior Researcher Grant (€10,000)	2022
Economic Journal Referee Prize	2021
CEP Research Grant (£10,000)	2020
UCL Harvesting Research Grants (£1,000)	2020

WTO Essay Award for Young Economists	2019
Kraks Fond Prize for Best Student Paper at the 8th European Meeting of the UEA	2018
Best Paper Award at the 17th Annual GEP/CEPR Post-graduate conference	2018
Best Paper Award at the 18th RIEF Doctoral Meeting	2018
Oxford Chellgren Graduate Scholarship and ESRC Studentship	2016 - 2018
Fellowship of the German Academic Exchange Service	2014 - 2015
Fellowship of the German National Academic Foundation	2009 - 2015

PAST EMPLOYMENT

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, University College London	2019 - 2021
Senior Expert, LSE Consulting	2018, 2020
Trainee, European Central Bank	2015 - 2016
Research Assistant, Centre for Economic Performance	2016 - 2019
Visiting Researcher, Santa Fe Institute	2013
Visiting Researcher, Institute for New Economic Thinking, Oxford Martin School	2013
Research Assistant, Eberhard Karls University Tübingen	2010 - 2012
Volunteer, German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Auroville Int. e.V.	2008 - 2009

INVITED SEMINARS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2024	University College London
2023	CREAM Workshop, Geneva Trade and Development Workshop (GTDW), 12th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, 17th Csef-Igier Symposium 17th North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association,
2022	University of Geneva, Hong Kong Trade Seminar, Kiel Institute for the World Economy, University of Munich, Paris International Economics Seminar, University of Zurich, IEB Workshop on Urban Economics
2021	Aarhus University, Bocconi University, Carlos III, ECARES (ULB), ESSEC Business School, Queen Mary University of London, Universidad EAFIT, University of Amsterdam, University of Bielefeld, University of Bristol, University of Surrey
2020	London School of Economics (internal WS), University College London (internal WS), UEA Virtual Meeting, City University of London
2019	University of Oxford (internal WS), London School of Economics (internal WS), 9th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, European Trade Study Group, 14th American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association
2018	London School of Economics (internal WS), University of Oxford (internal WS), University of Düsseldorf (DICE), Tinbergen Institute Annual Conference, 18th RIEF Doctoral Meeting, 8th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, 17th Annual GEP/CEPR Post-graduate conference, RES Symposium for Junior Researchers
2017	University of Oxford (internal WS), Royal Economic Society Annual Conference, Economic Geography and International Trade Research Meeting (EGIT)
2016	Ifo Dresden Workshop "Regional Economics".
2013	Graduate Workshop at INET Annual Conference, IPE Undergraduate Research Conference.

INVITED KEYNOTES

Special Economic Zones: Lessons from Developing Countries Workshop, IfW Kiel	2023
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REFEREEING

Econometrica, Economic Journal, Economica, Economic Inquiry, European Economic Review, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Urban Economics, Nature: Cities, Oxford Economic Papers, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, World Economy

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR ORGANIZATION

12th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, local co-organizer	2023
Online Spatial and Urban Seminar (OSUS), co-organizer	2021 - 2023
RIEF board member	2022 -
Program Committee GEP graduate conference	2021
Program Committee RES Symposium of Junior Researchers	2017 - 2018

WORKING PAPERS

Cities, Heterogeneous Firms and Trade,

(with Alvaro Garcia-Marin, Andrei Potlogea, Nico Voigtlaender and Yang Yang),

This paper combines independent work by Bakker and Garcia-Marin et al. Previous single-authored versions of this paper, circulated as “Trade and Agglomeration: Theory and Evidence from France” and “International Trade and Regional Inequality”, received the following awards:

WTO Essay Award for Young Economists 2019

Kraks Fond prize for Best Student Paper at 8th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association

Best Paper Award at the 17th Annual GEP/CEPR Post-graduate conference

Best Paper Award at the 18th RIEF Doctoral Meeting

Non-tariff barriers and consumer prices: evidence from Brexit,

(with Nikhil Datta, Richard Davies and Josh De Lyon), *CEP Discussion Paper 1888*

Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) are the main policy impediment to international trade, yet little is known about their pass-through to prices. This paper exploits the Brexit trade policy shock to quantify how NTBs affect consumer prices and welfare. The increase in NTBs raised prices by 6%, implying a pass-through of 50-80%. Based on a standard welfare framework, we show households lost £5.84bn, domestic producers gained £4.78bn, and £1.06bn was lost through deadweight loss. Due to differences in food expenditure shares, households in the lowest decile

PUBLICATIONS

Of Mice and Merchants: Connectedness and the Location of Economic Activity in the Iron Age,

(with Stephan Maurer, Jörn-Steffen Pischke and Ferdinand Rauch), *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 103.4 (2021), Pages 652-665.

We study the causal relationship between geographic connectedness and development using one of the earliest massive trade expansions: the first systematic crossing of open seas in the Mediterranean during the time of the Phoenicians. We construct a geography based measure of connectedness along the shores of the sea. We relate connectedness to economic activity, which we measure using the presence of archaeological sites. We find an association between better connected locations and archaeological sites during the Iron Age, at a time when sailors began to cross open water routinely on a big scale. We corroborate these findings at world level.

Migration and Urbanisation in Post-Apartheid South Africa,

(with Chris Parsons and Ferdinand Rauch),

World Bank Economic Review, 34 (2020), Pages 509-532

Although Africa has experienced rapid urbanization in recent decades, little is known about the process of urbanization across the continent. This paper exploits a natural experiment, the abolition of South African pass laws, to explore how exogenous population shocks affect the spatial distribution of economic activity. Under apartheid, black South Africans were severely restricted in their choice of location, and many were forced to live in homelands. Following the abolition of apartheid they were free to migrate.

Given a migration cost in distance, a town nearer to the homelands will receive a larger inflow of people than a more distant town following the removal of mobility restrictions. Drawing upon this exogenous variation, this study examines the effect of migration on urbanization in South Africa. While it is found that on average there is no endogenous adjustment of population location to a positive population shock, there is heterogeneity in the results. Cities that start off larger do grow endogenously in the wake of a migration shock, while rural areas that start off small do not respond in the same way. This heterogeneity indicates that population shocks lead to an increase in urban relative to rural populations. Overall, the evidence suggests that exogenous migration shocks can foster urbanization in the medium run.

How Well Do Experience Curves Predict Technological Progress? A Method for Making Distributional Forecasts,

(with Francois Lafond, Aimee Bailey, Dylan Rebois, Rubina Zadourian, Patrick McSharry, Doayne Farmer)

Technological Forecasting & Social Change, 128 (2018), Pages 104-117,

Experience curves are widely used to predict the cost benefits of increasing the deployment of a technology. But how good are such forecasts? Can one predict their accuracy a priori? In this paper we answer these questions by developing a method to make distributional forecasts for experience curves. We test our method using a dataset with proxies for cost and experience for 51 products and technologies and show that it works reasonably well. The framework that we develop helps clarify why the experience curve method often gives similar results to simply assuming that costs decrease exponentially. To illustrate our method we make a distributional forecast for prices of solar photovoltaic modules.

POLICY REPORTS

Post-Brexit imports, supply chains, and the impact on prices

(with Nikhil Datta, Josh De Lyon, Luisa Opitz, and Dilan Yang),

in *Portes J. (eds.): The Economics of Brexit: What Have We Learned?*, CEPR Press, 2022

Vulnerabilities of Supply Chains Post-Brexit (with N. Datta, J. De Lyon and E. Garnizova),
LSE Consulting, 2020

The impact of Brexit on the UK dairy sector (with N. Datta), *LSE Consulting*, 2018

OTHER

Software: ArcGIS, Latex, Matlab, Python, Stata

Languages: German (native), English (fluent), Spanish (intermediate), French (basic), Italian (in progress)

Nationality: German, UK Settled Status