

Mokhtar Tabari

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Contact Information
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Placement Director: Dr. Stefan Staubli, Email: sstaubli@ucalgary.ca, Phone: (403) 220-6180

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Fields	International Trade, Energy and Environmental Economics, Applied Econometrics		
Doctoral Studies	Ph.D. Economics University of Calgary, Canada	2014 - 2020 (Expected)	
	References: Prof. Alexander Whalley (supervisor) Dept. of Economics University of Calgary Phone: (403) 220-7143 alexander.whalley@ucalgary.ca	Prof. Trevor Tombe Dept. of Economics University of Calgary Phone: (403) 220-8068 ttombe@ucalgary.ca	Prof. Lucija Muehlenbachs Dept. of Economics University of Calgary Phone: (403) 220-7264 lmuehlen@ucalgary.ca
Prior Education	M.Sc. Economics Institute for Management and Planning Studies, Iran	2011 - 2014	
	B.Sc. Industrial Engineering Iran University of Science and Technology, Iran	2007 - 2011	
Teaching Experience	Instructor, University of Calgary - The Global Trading System (Evaluation: 6.17 out of 7)	2019	
	Teaching Assistant, University of Calgary - The Global Trading System (3 times) - International Trade (grad-level) - Econometrics I - Empirical Energy Economics - Economics of Natural Resources - Summer Math Camp (grad-level) - Use of Statistics in Economics - Topics in Economic Theory II (macroeconomics) - Principles of Macroeconomics (3 times)	2018 - 2019 2019 2019 2017 2016 2016 2016 2016 2014 - 2015	
Relevant Positions	Research Assistant to Dr. Trevor Tombe CREATE ME2 Trainee at the University of Calgary Research Assistant to Dr. Alexander Whalley Research Assistant to Dr. Nasser Khiabani	2018 2017 - 2016 - 2013 - 2014	

Awards	Dissertation Research Award	2019
	Travel Grant	2019
	Globalink Research Award	2018
	Global Research Initiative Award	2017
	Ph.D. Graduate Scholarship	2014-2018
	Best Master Thesis Award	2014

Conferences	Presented:	
	- 5th Canadian PhD and Early Career Workshop, Calgary	2019
	- Canadian Economic Association Conference, Banff	2019
	- Emerging Techs. for Sustainable Energy Solutions, Calgary	2019
	- Applied Microeconomics Seminars, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi	2018
	- Department of Economics weekly seminars, Calgary	2017, 2018, 2019
	Attended:	
	- International Trade, Firms & Productivity, Vancouver	2019
	- Empirical Microeconomics Workshop, Banff	2019
	- Berkeley/Sloan Summer School in Environmental and Energy Economics, Berkeley	2017

Computer Skills	Stata, R, MATLAB, \LaTeX
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Referee Service	Journal of Environmental Economics and Management
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Languages	Persian (native), English (fluent)
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Research Papers

Import Competition, Productivity and Product Mix (JOB MARKET PAPER)

Abstract: When faced with tougher import competition, firms can improve the productivity of their existing products (intensive margin) or reallocate their output towards more efficiently produced products (extensive margin). What is the contribution of each channel to aggregate productivity growth? To answer this question, I use a rich firm-product-level panel of Indian manufacturers between 1994 and 2008 to estimate product-specific productivity over time. The surge in Chinese exports to India allows me to estimate the causal effect of trade on both margins of productivity growth. I reach two main conclusions. First, tougher Chinese import competition increased the productivity of existing products. Second, there was no causal effect on reallocation across products. My results suggest the intensive margin response to rising imports from China accounts for 20-30 percent of the overall productivity growth in the manufacturing sector.

Paying for performance: The role of policy in energy storage deployment (UNDER REVIEW)
with Blake Shaffer

Abstract: Energy storage has long been viewed as a solution to the growing challenge of intermittent electricity supply. However, energy storage deployment remains limited despite falling costs. One reason for this is current market rules inadequately compensate storage for all the value it can provide. A recent policy change in the United States seeks to rectify this situation by requiring grid operators to compensate providers of frequency regulation services based on speed and accuracy. This seemingly subtle change has a beneficial effect for fast-acting storage resources. Using a difference-in-differences method, exploiting the fact the Order covers a subset of U.S. electricity

regions, we find a greater than 30% increase in the number of storage projects in the covered regions. This result highlights the importance of getting prices right and the material effect properly reflecting the value of storage can have on storage deployment.

Research in Progress

Patents, Prices, and Productivity in the Global Economy with Alexander Whalley and [Greg Wright](#)

Abstract: Products embodying intellectual property are exported globally, yet intellectual property regulations remain national. When firms face product adjustment costs, intellectual property regulatory decisions can have effects on prices and productivity in other markets and across all the firms' products. We study how Taiwanese firms respond to the loss of intellectual property protection in the United States. Using highly detailed firm-product-level data from 2000 to 2014 to estimate product level prices and productivity, we find three results. First, the loss of a patent invalidity case in the United States reduces product level export quantities, increases product level prices in export markets, but reduces product level productivity. Second, the loss of a patent invalidity case in the United States reduces product level domestic quantity, increases product level prices in domestic markets, and also reduces product level productivity. Third, the prices of other products in both domestic and export markets fall. Intellectual property embodied in marquee products can propagate intellectual property decisions across markets and products.

Environmental Regulation and Firm Performance

Abstract: Environmental regulations have been widely used in all developed and some developing countries to address global climate change. However, many governments are concerned with the economic costs of environmental improvement. Focusing on developing economies, this paper identifies the causal effect of environmental regulations on productivity of Indian manufacturing firms. I find that correcting for all sources of bias, specially output price bias, is crucial to identify the real effects. My results demonstrate that environmental regulations adversely affected total factor productivity of Indian firms. Moreover, I find about two percent of exporters exited international markets due to losing their competitiveness.