

Paul Landefeld

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Fields of Interest:

Trade, Applied Microeconomics, Labor, Development

Education:

Ph.D. Candidate, University of Virginia	Expected 2012
M.A. Economics, University of Virginia	2006
B.A. Economics, Columbia University	2002

Dissertation:

“Empirical Investigations of Three Questions in International Trade”

<i>Committee:</i>	James Harrigan	james.harrigan@virginia.edu	(434) 243-8354
	John McLaren	jmclaren@virginia.edu	(434) 924-3994
	Sheetal Sekhri	ss5mj@virginia.edu	(434) 982-4286

Working Papers:

“Task Trade, Wages, and Transportation Costs”

Abstract: This work investigates how falling trade costs affect wages and how these effects differ for workers in highly offshorable jobs. To address these issues empirically, I create new measures of transportation costs for imports which provide exogenous, industry level variation in trade costs. I adopt the insight from earlier literature on task based labor markets: that the specific tasks performed at various jobs make some occupations easier to offshore than others. I develop measures offshorability, which I use to test the prediction that falling transport costs decrease the relative wage of highly offshorable occupations by exposing them to foreign competition. I find that established measures of offshorability based on the face-to-face content of jobs produce counterintuitive results. I create a new measure of offshorability which also incorporates the routine content of occupations. Using this index leads to more sensible estimates, suggesting that declining transportation costs from 1989-2003 reduced the relative wages of offshorable workers by about 5 percent. My results indicate that commonly used measures of offshorability that focus on face-to-face job requirements alone miss an important dimension of offshorability. An advantage of my approach is that by focusing on transport costs, I address endogeneity issues that plague earlier work on the effect of trade on wages.

“Industry Level Transportation Costs as a Determinant of International Trade”

Abstract: Recent research on cross country differences in transportation costs has established that this variation is an important determinant of bilateral trade flows. However, much of the literature on the impact of trade on domestic workers focuses on industry level trade flows. With this in mind, I develop a set of industry level transportation costs from product level trade data from 1989-2003 to determine the impact of changing transportation costs on trade flows. I develop a set of hedonic transport price indexes, using a regression based method of controlling for changing quality, as well as a set of conventional matched model indexes and conclude that the hedonic price indexes are more appropriate in the context of transportation costs. I find that transportation costs declined dramatically across industries from 1989-2003, falling between 25 and 30 percent on average. I also find that there is significant variation in the magnitude of this decline across industries, a fact which I utilize to determine the impact of transportation costs on industry level imports. I estimate that the elasticity of imports with respect to transport costs is on the order of -0.6 to -1.5.

“Financial Incentives and Household Structure: The Case of South Africa’s Child Support Grant”

Abstract: Research on US welfare programs favoring single-parent households has shown that family structure responds to economic incentives. However, there is little research on incentives and family structure in developing countries or using unconditional grants. Some survey evidence from South Africa suggests that more than 50% of children reside in a household without their father, making it a promising setting for studying the effects of financial incentives on family structure. This paper analyzes the impact of a widespread poverty alleviation grant for families with young children in South Africa. I use an exogenous expansion in grant eligibility to estimate the impact of the grant on father’s presence in the household. I find that this modest grant increases the probability that a child lives with his father by 5-15%. My research suggests that the impact on family structure may be an important consideration in planning assistance programs in developing countries.

Work in Progress:

“Agricultural Trade Policy and Groundwater Levels,” joint with Sheetal Sekhri

Fellowships and Awards:

2009-2010	Bankard Fellowship, University of Virginia
2007-2008	Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Virginia
2007	Summer Research Fellowship, University of Virginia
2006	Huneke Fellowship, University of Virginia
1998-2002	John Jay Scholar, Columbia University

Research and Professional Experience:

2009-Present	Research Assistant for Sheetal Sekhri , University of Virginia
2005-2007	Research Assistant for Kamalini Ramdas , Darden School of Business
2006	Ph.D. Intern, Citigroup U.S. Economics Research Group , New York, NY
2003-2005	Research Assistant, Board of Governors , Washington, DC
2002-2003	Research Assistant, President’s Council of Economic Advisers , Washington, DC.

Teaching Experience:

Spring 2009	Instructor , Principles of Microeconomics
Fall 2008	Head Teaching Assistant , Principles of Microeconomics (Prof. Leonard Mirman)
2007-2008	Teaching Assistant , Economic Development (Prof. Sanjay Jain)
Spring 2007	Teaching Assistant , Principles of Macroeconomics (Prof. Lee Coppock)
Fall 2006	Teaching Assistant , Principles of Microeconomics (Prof. Kenneth Elzinga)

Other Information:

Citizenship:	United States
Languages:	Conversational Italian and Spanish
Computing:	STATA, MATLAB, GIS, SAS, Haver, Bloomberg, HTML