

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University (PSU), expected May 2009

Fields: International Relations (major); Political Methodology (first minor); and Comparative Politics (second minor)

Thesis: "Emerging Markets and Political Risks to Foreign Investors: The Special Case of Political Violence" (Committee: Quan Li (Chair), D. Scott Bennett, Douglas Lemke, and Andres Rodriguez-Clare (Economics))

M.A., Pennsylvania State University, 2005, *Award for Best MA Essay*,

Thesis: "The Political Determinants of Primary Sector Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Developing Countries" (advised by Dr. Quan Li)

B.A., Randolph-Macon Woman's College, 2003, *Summa cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Honors in International Studies and Art History*,

Honors thesis: "Who Hides behind the Camera: U.S. Foreign Policy and War Photography" (advised by Dr. Jennifer Abbassi and Dr. Christine Hamza)

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

Why do some foreign investors avoid political violence while others tolerate it? Existing research on the relationship between conflict and foreign direct investment (FDI) focuses on country-level probabilities of violence and cannot account for differences in firm behavior within each country. Assuming firm heterogeneity, I identify two investment characteristics that reduce firms' sensitivity to conflict: prevalence of non-physical assets in the foreign operation and location substitutability. Both industry level patterns of FDI flows and responses to a 2006 survey of foreign investors support this claim, indicating that not all firms avoid conflict countries. In the second part of the dissertation, I argue that foreign capital associated with industries vulnerable to political violence has positive externalities while conflict is ongoing, expediting the termination of violence. Foreign capital flowing to industries less sensitive to political violence extends the duration of peace.

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

1. "Modernization vs. Dependency: Effects of Foreign Direct Investment on Food Security in Less Developed Countries" (lead author, with Quan Li), revise and resubmit at *International Studies Quarterly*
2. "War, Democracy, and Climate Change" (with Rafael Reuveny and Quan Li), revise and resubmit at *Journal of Peace Research*
3. "Gambling on Conflict: Profiling Investors in Conflict Countries," under review

WORKING PAPERS

1. "The Political Determinants of Sector-Specific FDI in Developing Countries" (with Quan Li), under final revision

2. "Who's Afraid of Political Violence? Evidence from Industry-Level FDI Flows," under revision
3. "A Baseline Model of War Fatalities" (with Scott Bennett), completed data collection and analysis
4. "The Politics of Foreign Direct Investment and Conflict: Managing Political Violence Risks in Developing Countries," completed data collection

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

1. "Who's Afraid of Political Violence? Evidence from Industry-Level FDI Flows." To be presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 2008, Boston
2. "Foreign Investors and Political Violence: Effects of Firm Characteristics on Firms' Threat Perceptions." Presented at (1) the International Studies Association Annual Convention, March 2008, San Francisco and (2) the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2008, Chicago
3. "The Political Determinants of Sector-Specific FDI in Developing Countries" (with Quan Li). Presented at the International Studies Association Annual Convention, March 2006, San Diego
4. "The Political Determinants of Primary Sector FDI in Developing Countries." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2005, Chicago
5. "A Baseline Model of War Fatalities" (with Scott Bennett). Presented at the 2005 North American Meeting of the Peace Science Society (International), October 2005, Iowa City

GRANTS AND AWARDS

1. *Dissertation Research Grant*, College of Liberal Arts, PSU (2007)—funds to purchase UNCTAD data set on industry-level FDI to developing countries
2. *Dissertation Support Award*, Department of Political Science, PSU (2007)—funds to conduct political risk survey of MNC executives
3. *International Relations Predoctoral Fellowship*, Department of Political Science, PSU (2006)—stipend and release of duties for one year
4. *Miller Graduate Research Award*, Department of Political Science, PSU (2005)—summer stipend for collaborative research with a faculty member
5. *Research account award*, College of Liberal Arts, PSU (2003-2005)—funds to enhance research efforts, to be used at the recipient's discretion
6. *Trustees' fellowship*, Randolph-Macon Woman's College (1999-2003)—award covering 85% of tuition and living expenses for four years
7. *Travel grant*, the Soros Foundation (1999-2003)—funds to cover the cost of travel from Romania to the U.S. for four years

OTHER GRADUATE TRAINING

- 2005 Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, University of Michigan: Multiple Likelihood Estimation; Advanced Linear Analysis
- 2005 Smeal College of Business, The Pennsylvania State University: Network Analysis Seminar (Dr. Wenpin Tsai)
- 2005 Winter Workshop, Texas A&M University: Social Choice Theory (Dr. T. Clifton Morgan)
- 2004 CIC Exchange Program, Ohio State University: Microeconomics, Macroeconomics

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- 1. *International Political Economy:*
Globalization: foreign direct investment (location, political risks, MNCs as political actors); regulation of trade and foreign direct investment
Development: effects of globalization and political institutions on human security
- 2. *Conflict Studies:*
Socio-economic causes and consequences of conflict; post-conflict reconstruction
- 3. *Methods:*
Quantitative methods

TEACHING INTERESTS

- 1. *International Relations:* Introduction to International Political Economy; Introduction to International Relations; Model UN; advanced topics in International Political Economy (e.g., Government and Society in a Globalizing World; Politics of International Business); and advanced topics in International Relations (e.g., Foreign Policy, Quantitative Study of Conflict)
- 2. *Political Methodology:* Research Design and Methods in Political Science; Probability and Regression; Linear Analysis
- 3. *Comparative Politics:* Introduction to Comparative Politics; Comparative Political Economy; Democratization; The Politics of Development

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 1. *Research assistant* for Prof. Quan Li: theoretical and empirical contributions to various projects on patterns and regulation of FDI (Fall 2003; Spring 2005; Spring, Summer, Fall 2006)
- 2. *Research assistant* for Prof. Scott Bennett: collaborated on a project on the determinants of fatalities in interstate conflict (Summer – Fall 2005)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 1. *Instructor* for International Political Economy (PLSC 412)—Summer 2007, Summer 2008, PSU

2. *Teaching assistant* for Introduction to International Relations (PLSC 014)—Spring 2004, Fall 2008 (Prof. Errol Henderson), Fall 2004 (Prof. Tamar London), PSU

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

1. Panel organizer: The Political Economy of Foreign Direct Investment, APSA (2008)
2. Computing Committee, Department of Political Science, PSU (2006)
3. IPE Search Committee, Department of Political Science, PSU (2005)
4. President of the Graduate Association of Political Scientists, PSU (2005-2006)
5. Department delegate to the Graduate Student Association, PSU (2004-2005)

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

1. American Political Science Association (APSA)
2. Peace Science Society (International) (PSS)
3. International Studies Association (ISA)
4. Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)

LANGUAGES

Fluent: Romanian, French, English; *Advanced:* Spanish; *Intermediary:* German, Italian

PROGRAMMING AND COMPUTING SKILLS

Statistical software: STATA, R (both advanced); LimDep, UCINET, SPSS, LateX (all intermediary)

General programming: Java and C++ (both intermediary)

Web Design: Dreamweaver, FrontPage, HTML (all intermediary)

REFERENCES

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