

Wen-Tai Hsu

Personal Data/Contact Information

Office Address

School of Economics
Singapore Management University
90 Stamford Road
Singapore 178903
Fax: +65-6828 0833

Telephone Number, Email, etc

Office: +65-6808 5455
E-mail: wentaihsu@smu.edu.sg
wentai@umn.edu
URL: <http://wthsu.weebly.com>

Current Position

Assistant Professor, School of Economics, Singapore Management University, July, 2013-

Education

Ph.D., Economics, University of Minnesota, 2008
M.A., Economics, National Taiwan University, 2002
B.A., Economics, National Taiwan University, 1998

Ph.D Dissertation

Title: “Central Place Theory and Zipf’s Law”
Dissertation Advisors: Thomas J. Holmes, Samuel S. Kortum
Chair of Dissertation Committee: Erzo G. J. Luttmer

Past Positions

2011-2013 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, National University of Singapore
Affiliated Researcher, Institute of Real Estate Studies, National University of Singapore
2008-2011 Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Chinese University of Hong Kong
2005-2008 Instructor, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota
2003-2005 Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota
2000-2001 Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, National Taiwan University

Research Interests

Applied Micro Theory, International Economics, Urban and Regional Economics, and Industrial Organization.

Membership in Professional Organizations

Urban Economic Association, the Econometric Society, the American Economic Association, Royal Economic Society.

Honors, Awards, Achievements

- 2015 Sing Lun Fellowship, Singapore Management University
- 2014 School of Economics Research Excellence Award, Singapore Management University
- 2012 Austin Robinson Memorial Prize for the best paper published annually in the *Economic Journal* by an author who is within five years of completing their PhD
- 2007 Dissertation Fellowship for Taiwan Students Abroad, Taiwan Ministry of Education
- 2003 Summer Fellowship, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota
- 2004 Graduate Fellowship, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota
- 2002 Postgraduate Research Scholarship, Faculty of Business and Economics, Monash University, Australia
- 2002 Honorary Mention, Best Master's Thesis Competition, Taiwan Economics Association
- 2000 Teaching Assistant Scholarship, Department of Economics, National Taiwan University

Publication

“Central Place Theory and City Size Distribution,” *Economic Journal*, 122, September 2012, pp. 903–932. *Austin Robinson Memorial Prize* for the best paper published in the *Economic Journal* in 2012 by an author who is within five years of receiving their PhD.

“Trade, Firm Selection, and Industrial Agglomeration,” with Ping Wang, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 42(6), November 2012, pp. 975-986.

“The Fundamental Law of Highway Congestion Revisited: Evidence from National Expressways in Japan,” with Hongliang Zhang, *Journal of Urban Economics*, 81, May 2014, pp. 65-76.

“Does Market Competition Lead to Customization?” with Travis Ng and Yi Lu, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 106, October 2014, pp. 10-28.

“Optimal City Hierarchy: A Dynamic Programming Approach to Central Place Theory,” with Thomas J. Holmes and Frank Morgan, *Journal of Economic Theory*, 154, November 2014, pp. 245-273.

“Allocative Efficiency, Mark-ups, and the Welfare Gains from Trade,” with Thomas J. Holmes and Sanghoon Lee, *Journal of International Economics*, 94(2), November 2014, pp. 195-206.

Working Paper

“Spatial Patterns and Size Distributions of Cities” with Tomoya Mori and Tony E. Smith.

“Plants and Productivity in Regional Agglomeration,” with Thomas J. Holmes and Sanghoon Lee.

“Exchange Rates and Export Structure,” with Yi Lu and Yingke Zhou.

Work in Progress

“Competition and Gains from Trade: Assessing the Welfare Effects of China's Improved Openness During 1995-2004,” with Yi Lu and Guiying Laura Wu.

“Growing with Vertical and Process Innovations,” with Ping Wang and Shin-Kun Peng.

“Dynamic Gains from Trade,” with Raymond G. Riezman and Ping Wang.

Research Grant

In the capacity of Principle Investigator:

2011 Startup Grant, " Trade, Growth, and Income Inequality: A Division of Labor Perspective"
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore

2011 RGC General Research Fund, Hong Kong (Project no. 446211), " Regional Inequality and Economic Growth: An Open Economy Perspective" with Co-Investigator Yong Wang.

2010 RGC General Research Fund, Hong Kong (Project no. 445810), "A Tractable Model of Regional Agglomeration: Eaton-Kortum meets Krugman," with Co-Investigators Thomas J. Holmes and Sanghoon Lee.

2009 Chinese University of Hong Kong Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants SS08571),
“A Quantitative Central Place Theory.”

2008 Chinese University of Hong Kong Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants SS08582),
“Industrial Agglomerations and Cities: An Empirical Examination.”

Editorial Service

Editorial Position

Associate Editor, *Academia Economic Papers*, 2015 - present

Journal Referee

Academia Economic Papers (x3), *Annals of Regional Science*, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, *Economic Theory*, *Environment and Planning A* (x4), *International Economic Review*, *International Journal of Economic Theory*, *International Regional Science Review*, *Journal of Economic Geography*, *Journal of Macroeconomics*, *Journal of Political Economy* (x3), *Journal of Regional Science*, *Journal of Urban Economics* (x7), *Pacific Economic Review*, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, *Scientific Reports*, *Taiwan Economic Review*, *Papers in Regional Science* (x2), *World Economy*

Grant Referee

General Research Fund, Research Grants Council, Hong Kong

Professional Service

Organizers of two sessions in both 2013 and 2014 Asia Meeting of Econometric Society.

Conference Presentation

- Joint Session of American Economic Association and Chinese Economic Association in North America, ASSA Meetings, Boston, January 2015.
- 2014 Society of Advanced Economic Theory (SAET) Conference, Waseda University, Tokyo, August 2014.
- 2014 Asia Meeting of Econometric Society, Academia Sinica, Taipei, June, 2014.
- 60th Annual Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, Atlanta, November 2013
- 2013 Asia Meeting of Econometric Society, National University of Singapore, August, 2013.
- 2012 NUS-IRES Symposium on Asian Growth and Urban Economy, Singapore, July 2012
- 58th Annual Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, Miami, November 2011
- Competition and Diffusion Conference by Center for the Advanced Study in Economic Efficiency (CASEE), Arizona State University, March 2011
- 57th Annual Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, Denver, November 2010
- Econometric Society World Congress, Shanghai, August 2010
- 2010 Society of Advanced Economic Theory (SAET) Conference, National University of Singapore, August 2010
- 56th Annual Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, San Francisco, November 2009
- Annual Meeting of Society of Economic Dynamics, Istanbul, July 2009
- The Econometric Society North American Summer Meeting, Boston University, June 2009
- International Conference on "Globalization: Cultures, Institutions and Socioeconomics," Chinese University of Hong Kong, December, 2008
- 55th Annual Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, New York, New York, November, 2008
- International Conference on Economic Integration, Trade, and Spatial Structure, Nogaya University, August 2008
- 54th Annual Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, Savannah, Georgia, November 2007
- Midwest Theory Meeting, Minneapolis, April 2007

Seminar Presentation

- Academia Sinica, Taipei, November 2008, May 2010, December 2013, December 2014
- Chinese University of Hong Kong, September 2008, March 2010, November 2013
- City University of Hong Kong, September 2008
- Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, December 2007
- Fudan University, Shanghai, May 2010
- Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, December 2009, November 2010, December 2013
- Kyoto University, July 2008, September 2009
- National University of Singapore, November 2011, October 2012
- Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, September 2012
- National Taiwan University, November 2008
- National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Tokyo, July 2008
- National Tsinghua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan, December 2014
- Singapore Management University, September 2012, November 2012, November 2013
- Tsinghua University, Beijing, December 2010
- University of Chicago, January 2008
- University of Hong Kong, March 2010
- University of Luxembourg, April 2011
- University of Toronto, January 2008

University Courses Taught

- 2013-2015 **Assistant Professor**, School of Economics, Singapore Management University. Taught Urban Economics (Undergraduate) and Urban Economics (Graduate)
- 2011-2013 **Visiting Assistant Professor**, Department of Economics, National University of Singapore. Taught Urban Economics (Undergraduate), Foundations for Econometrics (Undergraduate).
- 2008-2011 **Assistant Professor**, Department of Economics, Chinese University of Hong Kong. Taught International Trade (Graduate), Review of Quantitative Methods (Graduate), and Methods of Economic Statistics.
- 2005-2008 **Instructor**, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota. Taught Principles of Microeconomics, Principle of Macroeconomics, Introduction to Econometrics, and Urban Economics.
- 2004-2005 **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota. Led recitation sections for Introduction to Econometrics and Principles of Microeconomics.
- 2000-2001 **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Economics, National Taiwan University. Led recitation sections for Principles of Economics.

Thesis Supervision

Master Thesis: Wang Yao, Kin Tai Cheung, Jutong Pan (CUHK)

Service in Thesis Committee

Ph.D Thesis: Yiqin Xu, Bochao Zhang (NUS)

Master Thesis: Lin Jiao (CUHK), Chandrani Sarma (NUS)