Can Tian

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PERSONAL INFO

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics
University of Pennsylvania, 2014
Advisor: Professor Dirk Krueger

B.A. Finance
Zhejiang University, China, 2008

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA, since 2025

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA, 2018 – 2025.

Assistant Professor, School of Economic Sciences, Washington State University, USA, 2016 – 2018.

Assistant Professor, School of Economics, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, China, 2014 – 2016.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Macroeconomics, Business Cycles, Industry/Firm Dynamics, Production Network, Information Frictions.

PUBLICATIONS

Inventory Management in Decentralized Markets (with Fei Li, Charles Murry, and Yiyi Zhou)
International Economic Review, Volume 65, Issue1, February 2024, Pages 431-470.

Learning and Firm Dynamics in a Stochastic Equilibrium
Journal of Economic Theory, Volume 203, July 2022, 105486.

Input-Output Linkages in Pigouvian Industrial Fluctuations
Journal of Monetary Economics, Volume 117, January 2021, Pages 1078-1095.

Firm-level Entry and Exit Dynamics over the Business Cycles
European Economic Review, Volume 102, February 2018, Pages 298-326.

Riskiness, Endogenous Productivity Dispersion and Business Cycles
Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, Volume 57, August 2015, Pages 227–249.

Directed Search and Job Rotation (joint with Fei Li)
Journal of Economic Theory, Volume 148, Issue 3, May 2013, Pages 1268–1281.

WORKING PAPERS

Innovation and Endogenous Knowledge Network Dynamics (with Jie Cai)

An Empirical Model of Intermediation in Decentralized Spatial Economies (with Fei Li, Charles Murry, and Yiyi Zhou) revision requested by the *Journal of Political Economy*

WORK IN PROGRESS

Sorting in Firm-to-firm Production Networks (with Xincheng Qiu, and Xinan Yan)

Search and Network Dynamics

Dynamics of Citation Networks and Structural Changes in Input-Output Linkages (with Jie Cai)

CONFERENCES

2025 North American Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society

2024 BSE Summer Forum

2023 North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society

2022 SED Annual Meeting

2021 SED Annual Meeting, North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society, I85 Macro Workshop

2019 I85 Macro Workshop, Midwest Macroeconomic Meetings Spring & Fall, North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society

2018 Midwest Macroeconomic Meetings Spring and Fall

2016 Shanghai Macroeconomics Workshop, NBER Entrepreneurship and Economic Growth

2015 World Congress of the Econometric Society

2014 North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society,

2012 Midwest Economic Theory Conference

2011 Tsinghua Workshop in Macroeconomics, North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society, Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society

SEMINARS

2025 University of California in Santa Barbara, Collegio Carlo Alberto, City University of Hong Kong, Xiamen University

2024 University of Virginia, University of Connecticut, Peking University

2023 University of Toronto, Chinese University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen, University of International Business and Economics, Shandong University

2022 University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

2021 University of Pittsburgh

2019 Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland

2018 University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Iowa State University, University of Tennessee, University of North Carolina Charlotte

2017 Stony Brook University

2016 Washington State University, University of Queensland

2015 Duke University Trade Dynamic Macro Workshop, CERGE-EI, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of New South Wales, University of Queensland

2014 Federal Reserve Board of Governors

TEACHING

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
ECON 720 Advanced Macroeconomic Theory I (Ph.D. core) 2025
ECON 822 (previously ECON 890) Firm Dynamics and Production Networks (Ph.D. field) 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024
ECON 423 Financial Markets (undergraduate) 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
ECON 101H Introduction to Economics (undergraduate) 2019

Washington State University
ECONS 502 Macroeconomic Theory II (Ph.D. core) 2018
ECONS 320 Money and Banking (undergraduate) 2016–2018
ECONS 500 Macroeconomic Theory I (Ph.D. core) 2016

Shanghai University of Finance and Economics
Advanced Macroeconomics (master) 2015–2016

University of Pennsylvania
ECON 103 Statistics for Economists (undergraduate) 2011–2012

AWARDS

University Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2008–2013

Xinmei Zhang Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2011–2012

First Prize of Excellent Undergraduate Scholarship, Zhejiang University, 2005-2007

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

To discipline:

2023 – present Co-organizer of the Devils and Wolves International Economics Seminar Series

2023 Member, Midwest Economics Association Nominating Committee

2022 Mentor, Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSWEP) mentoring workshop for female and non-binary Ph.D. students, 2022

Referee *Journal of Economic Theory, Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, Review of Economic Dynamics, Review of Economic Studies, Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking, International Economic Review, The B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics, Economic Inquiry, Journal of Macroeconomics*

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

2026 TAP Recruiting Committee

2025, 2026 Graduate Committee, Ph.D. Qualifier Exam Committee

2023, 2024, 2025 Departmental Reviewer of the Study Abroad Program

2022, 2024 TT Recruiting Committee

2020, 2021 Placement Committee

2019, 2020 Advisory Committee

Washington State University

2017, 2018 Ph.D. Core Examination Committee

2016, 2017 Seminar Committee