

**University of Minnesota - Twin Cities**

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**Curriculum Vitae  
Fall 2023****Simeng Zeng****Personal Data***Address*

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*Citizenship:* China (F-1 Visa)

**Major Fields of Concentration**

International economics, macroeconomics, firm innovation and economic growth

**Education**

<i>Degree</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Year</i>
PhD	Economics	University of Minnesota (expected)	2024
MA	Economics	University of Michigan	2018
BS	Mathematics	Peking University (China)	2016

**Dissertation**

Title: "Misallocation and Technology Upgrading under Trade Liberalization"

Dissertation Advisor(s): Professor Timothy Kehoe and Professor Manuel Amador

Expected Completion: Summer 2024

**References**

Professor Timothy Kehoe	(612) 625-1589 tkehoe@umn.edu	Department of Economics University of Minnesota 4-101 Hanson Hall
Professor Manuel Amador	(612) 624-4060 amador@umn.edu	1925 Fourth Street South Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455
Dr. Doireann Fitzgerald	doireann.fitzgerald@gmail.com	Senior Research Economist Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis 90 Hennepin Avenue Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

## Honors and Awards

- 2019-2020 *Morton D. and Artice E. Silverman Fellowship*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2018-2019 *John S. Chipman Fellowship*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

## Teaching Experience

- August 2020 *Instructor*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Taught *PhD Math Refresher course*.
- Sept 2019-  
May 2020 *Teaching Assistant*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Led recitation sections for graduate level *Microeconomic Theory*.

## Research Experience

- Sept 2020-  
Current *Research Analyst*, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Research analyst for Dr. Cristina Arellano.
- June 2023-  
August 2023 *Summer intern of Fund Internship Program (FIP)*, International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC. Supervised by Marijn A. Bolhuis and Benjamin Kett, examine the cost of geoeconomics fragmentation by endogenous formation of trading blocs if countries interact strategically.
- June 2017-  
Feb 2018 *Research Assistant*, Department of Economics, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Research assistant to Professor Stefanie Stantcheva

## Papers

- Zeng, Simeng, "Misallocation and Technology Upgrading under Trade Liberalization," job market paper. Presented in Minnesota-Wisconsin International Macroeconomics Student Workshops (2023 May, Wisconsin Madison).
- Bolhuis, Marijn A., Benjamin Kett and Simeng Zeng, "The Return of a Two-Bloc World? Endogenous Decoupling in the Age of Geoeconomic Fragmentation"
- Zeng, Simeng, "High-Skill Immigration Restriction and Multinational Talent Offshoring," Presented in Minnesota-Wisconsin International Macroeconomics Student Workshops (2021 Sept, Minnesota Minneapolis)

## Computer Skills

Matlab, R, Stata, Python

## Languages

Chinese Mandarin (Native), English (Proficient)

**Abstract(s)**

Zeng, Simeng, “Misallocation and Technology Upgrading under Trade Liberalization,” job market paper

This paper examines the influence of resource misallocation on firms' technology investment decisions and its impact on trade gains in developing countries. Literature finds that trade liberalization in distorted economies could result in limited gains or even losses due to worsening resource misallocation. However, trade can also promote technology upgrades and innovation. To explore whether the innovation channel can enhance the gains from trade, I construct a two-country Melitz model with firm-specific distortions and introduce the choice of research and development (R&D) investments. A quantitative assessment using Chinese manufacturing data shows that allowing firms to upgrade technology further reduces welfare gains from trade in this second-best environment, although it improves aggregate TFP. This is because misallocation distorts firms' R&D decisions, therefore trade liberalization encourages the growth of less productive but subsidized firms. This drives up costs for more productive yet taxed firms, resulting in a further reduction of trade gains. Even with additional R&D subsidies aimed at correcting distortions in innovation decisions, results remain unchanged. The paper emphasizes the importance of structural reforms to maximize trade gains in developing countries.