

#### HENRY H. ZHANG

**OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION** 

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DOCTORALMassachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)STUDIESPhD, Economics, Expected Completion in May 2025DISSERTATION: "Essays in Environmental and Supply Chain Topics in Finance"

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE AND REFERENCES

Professor Robert Townsend MIT Department of Economics 77 Massachusetts Ave, E52-538 Cambridge, MA 02139 617-452-3722 rtownsen@mit.edu

Professor Tong Liu MIT Sloan School of Management 100 Main St, E62-623 Cambridge, MA 02142 617-253-2478 tongl@mit.edu Professor Dave Donaldson MIT Department of Economics 77 Massachusetts Ave, E52-552 Cambridge, MA 02139 617-258-6242 ddonald@mit.edu

Prior Education	Swarthmore College BA with Highest Honors, Mathematics and Economics	2017
CITIZENSHIP	USA	
LANGUAGES	English (native), Mandarin Chinese (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate)	
FIELDS	Primary Fields: Finance, Macroeconomics Secondary Field: Environmental Economics	
TEACHING Experience	<ul> <li>14.381 Estimation and Inference for Linear Causal and Structural Models (MIT, Graduate) Teaching Assistant to Professor Whitney Newey</li> <li>14.380 Statistical Methods in Economics (MIT, Graduate) Teaching Assistant to Professor Anna Mikusheva</li> <li>14.27 Economics and E-Commerce (MIT, Undergraduate) Teaching Assistant to Professor Sarah Ellison</li> <li>14.73 The Challenge of World Poverty (MIT, Undergraduate) Teaching Assistant to Professors Esther Duflo and Frank Schilbach</li> </ul>	2023 2023 2022 2021
RELEVANT Positions	Pre-Doctoral Fellow and Research Assistant to Professor Michael 201 Greenstone (University of Chicago)	6-2019

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Fellowships Honors, and	EU Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Grant (\$9,000) PEDL Exploratory Research Grant (\$33,000)	2023 2022
AWARDS	STICERD (\$13,000)	2022
	George and Obie Shultz Fund (\$7,550, \$5,540)	2022, 2024
	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship	2019-2024

## **RESEARCH**Firm-Level and Aggregate Effects of Cheaper Liquidity: Evidence from**PAPERS**Factoring (Job Market Paper) (with Victor Orestes and Thiago Silva)

We show that firms experience large increases in sales and purchases after receiving cheaper liquidity. We focus on factoring, defined as the supplierinitiated sale of receivables. In Brazil, receivables funds (FIDCs) securitize receivables for institutional investors. By assembling a novel transaction-level dataset of factoring with other credit operations for all registered firms and FIDCs, we construct a shift-share instrument for factoring financing supply based on FIDC flows. We then use a novel combination of electronic payments, trade credit, and employer-employee matched data to estimate the impacts. A flow-induced increase in receivables demand reduces firms' factoring interest rate. In response, firms demand more permanent labor and less temporary labor. In our model, these effects arise from factoring's purpose of reducing cash inflow volatility, helping firms match inflows to outflows, which firms otherwise achieve at an efficiency cost through substitution across labor types. Using our model, we estimate that an aggregate decrease in the economy-wide factoring spread by 1 percentage point leads to 0.3 to 0.5 percentage point increases in aggregate output and wages.

## **Excess Volatility and Under-Insurance with Limited Pledgeability: Evidence from the Frost Shock** (with Victor Orestes and Thiago Silva)

We use transaction-level data on payments, credit, and insurance to examine how Brazilian farmers responded to the severe frost of July 2021, a shock that affected coffee, a perennial crop whose plants are a major component of farm value. The frost shock reduced both output and the pledgeable value of farmers' collateral. We find that insured farmers increased investment in the years following the shock, while uninsured farmers reduced investment and borrowing. We show how this pattern is consistent with models of imperfect pledgeability of a firm's collateral, where constrained firms neither insure (ex-ante) nor fully recover from a shock (ex-post). Limited commitment endogenously generates under-insurance through the combination of upfront payment of the insurance premium with the tightening of borrowing constraints post-shock due to the decrease in total collateral. We discuss two equilibrium implications of this mechanism: the inefficacy of emergency credit lines in targeting liquidity constrained firms and the amplification of output volatility from the rising risk of extreme weather shocks.



#### Aggregate Impacts of Command-and-Control Environmental Policy: Evidence from Court-Ordered Mining Bans in India (with Ananya Kotia and Utkarsh Saxena)

We estimate the aggregate impacts of court-ordered iron ore mining bans in India and consider the counterfactual welfare gains from an alternative policy to the ban. The local sectoral ban is a command-and-control (CAC) policy that is commonly applied to natural resource settings, usually when the regulator has a signal of widespread non-compliance. The Supreme Court of India imposed bans on iron ore mining and outbound iron ore trade in two states in response to reports that mines operated under fake environmental permits and underpaid mining royalties. Using firm-level industrial survey data, mine-level output data, and bilateral mine-to-firm auction data, we decompose the bans' effects into trade, production networks, and local labor demand channels. Our results indicate persistent declines in employment, capital stock, and borrowing by ironconsuming plants, despite the temporary duration of the ban. These findings highlight the economic spillovers caused by CAC policies, especially in industries that are upstream in the supply chain.

## **RESEARCH IN**Forward Guidance, Speculation, and Liquidity Shortfalls in an OTC**PROGRESS**Carbon Credit Market (with Luis Alvarez, Victor Orestes, and Thiago Silva)

We estimate the effects of forward guidance on the supply of carbon credits when trading is subject to over-the-counter (OTC) frictions, focusing on the CBIO market in Brazil. We combine the OTC tape data with firms' carbon credit holdings, balance sheet outcomes, and interfirm payments to study the impact on demand for carbon credits, borrowing, investment, and supply chain spillovers. We focus on the rapid increase in prices in June 2022 followed by a crash in July 2022, driven by speculation about forward guidance and an unexpected change in carbon credit policy. We show how low liquidity generated the volatility, and then propagated by limited float, insufficient hedging options, and the absence of designated market-makers.