

# Jinlin WEI

Email: [jinlinwei@ust.hk](mailto:jinlinwei@ust.hk)

Website: [jinlinwei.com](http://jinlinwei.com)

Division of Social Science, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

## Employment

---

Assistant Professor, Division of Social Science, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, 2024 - Present

## Education

---

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Warwick, UK, 2020 - 2024

MRes in Economics (with Distinction), University of Warwick, UK, 2018 – 2020

M.A. in Economics, Peking University, China, 2015 – 2018

B.Sc. in Physics, Peking University, China, 2011 – 2015

B.A. in Economics, Peking University, China, 2012 – 2015

## Academic Visit

---

Department of Economics, Northwestern University (Host: Prof. Joel Mokyr), January 2023 – June 2023

## Research Interests

---

**Primary:** Economic History and Development Economics

**Secondary:** Financial Economics and Urban Economics

## Publication

---

**"[Railways and Cities in India](#)" (with James Fenske (University of Warwick) and Namrata Kala (MIT)), *Journal of Development Economics*, 161 (2023): 103038.**

**Abstract:** Using a new dataset on city populations in colonial India, we show that the railroad network increased city size in the period 1881 to 1931. Our baseline estimation approach includes fixed effects for city and year, and we construct instrumental variables for railroad proximity based on distance from a least cost path spanning cities that existed prior to the start of railroad construction. Cities that increased market access due to the railroad grew. The small and heterogeneous effects we find are driven largely by cities that were initially small and isolated.

## Working Papers

---

1. "[Banking and Innovation: Evidence from the Industrial Revolution](#)" (Job Market Paper)
2. "[Branching for Caution: Banks in England and Wales during the 1878 Financial Panic](#)"

## Work in Progress

---

1. "The Fate of the Taiping Rebellions", with Nuno Palma (University of Manchester) and Chenyang Qi (Tsinghua University)
2. "The Fiscal Foundation of Bureaucratic Power Sharing in Late Qing China" with Tianyang Xi (Peking University)

### Conferences and Seminar Presentations

---

- 2024** Economic History Society Annual Conference (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK)
- 2023** Northwestern Economic History Lunch Seminar × 2 (Evanston, USA), 2023 CAGE Economic History Workshop (Coventry, UK), Arthur Lewis Lab Graduate Workshop (Manchester, UK), Economic History Society Annual Conference (Coventry, UK), 12th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Milan, Italy), PhD Symposium in Industrial Economics (Leicester, UK), CAGE Summer School (Coventry, UK), 3rd Annual Southern PhD Economics Conference (Brighton, UK), International Symposium on Quantitative History (Shanghai, China), World Congress of Cliometrics (Dublin, Ireland), 2023 Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society in East and Southeast Asia (Singapore), 38th meeting of the European Economic Association (Barcelona, Spain), Applied Young Economist Webinar (Warwick and Monash, online)
- 2022** RES Annual Conference (online), RES Symposium of Junior Researchers (online), NIE 2022 Conference (Loughborough, UK), 2022 ACEM Doctoral Students Forum (online), 16th North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Washington, D.C., USA), The Chinese Economy in the Long Run: poster session (Manchester, UK), Bristol Economics student workshop (Bristol, UK)
- 2021** EHS Residential Training School (Coventry, UK), 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Economic History Association Meeting (Tucson and online, US), Quantitative History Webinar Series (online, hosted by HKU), CAGE summer school (Coventry and online, UK), International Symposium on Quantitative History (Shanghai, China)
- 2017** China Public Finance Forum (Shanghai, China), International Symposium on Quantitative History (discussant, joint work presented by Prof. Tianyang Xi, Kaifeng, China)

### Teaching Experience

---

- EC226: Econometrics 1, Prof. Jeremy Smith and Dr. Kenichi Nagasawa, October 2022 – December 2022
- EC104: The World Economy: History & Theory, Dr. Claudia Rei and Prof. James Fenske, October 2021 – June 2022
- Introductory Lecture on using ArcGIS in Economics (Guest lecturer, Peking University), April 2022
- Economics of Anti-trust and Regulations, Prof. Fan Zhang, September 2016 - January 2017

Urban Economics, Prof. Fan Zhang, March 2015 - July 2015

## **Professional Activities**

---

- Organizer: CAGE AMES Workshops (University of Warwick)
- Referee for Journals:
  - Journal of Economic History
  - China Economic Quarterly International
- Referee for Workshops and Forums:
  - Quantitative China Studies Seminar (New York University)
  - Warwick PhD Forum (University of Warwick)
- Economic History Society Student Ambassador

## **Grants and Awards**

---

### **2023**

- Best Paper Prize of the Business and Industrial Section of the Royal Statistical Society
- Research Fund for Graduate Students by the Economic History Society (For visiting archives, £ 1,000)
- Departmental Discretionary Research Grant (For UEA European Conference and Cliometrics Congress, £ 2,000)
- Departmental Discretionary Research Grant (For EEA, £ 1,600)

### **2022**

- Departmental Discretionary Research Grant (For data collection, £ 2,000)
- Departmental Discretionary Research Grant (For visiting Northwestern, £ 2,000)

### **2016**

- Merit Student, Peking University

### **2013**

- Award for Excellence in Academic Performances, Peking University

## **Scholarships**

---

### **2020**

- Chancellor's international scholarship and tuition waiver 2020 - 2024, University of Warwick

### **2018**

- Departmental scholarship and tuition waiver 2018 - 2020, University of Warwick

### **2016**

- First-Class Academic scholarship, Peking University

## 2015

- Full scholarship and tuition waiver 2015 - 2018, Peking University
- China Economic Research Scholarship, China Center for Economic Research, Peking University

## 2013

- Zhang Wenjin scholarship, Peking University
- Feng Shenjun Scholarship, China Center for Economic Research, Peking University

## Further Education

---

**2022** RES Easter Training School (Bristol, UK), 'math+econ+code' masterclass on equilibrium transport and matching models in economics (online)

**2021** EHS Residential Training Course (Coventry, UK), CAGE Summer School (Coventry, UK)

**2019** Urban Economics Association Summer School, (London, UK), Quantitative History Summer School (Yantai, China)

**2017** Quantitative History Summer School (Kaifeng, China), Coase Workshop (Xiamen, China)

## Social Services

---

**2021 – 2024** Vice President, Peking University Alumni Association in the United Kingdom

## Computer Skills

---

Stata, Matlab, ArcGIS, Python

## Language

---

Mandarin Chinese (native), Cantonese Chinese (fluent), English (fluent)