Application for NBER Digitization PhD Tutorial

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Description of Study Status

I am a second year PhD student in Economic Analysis & Policy Area, at Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto. Prior to attending PhD program at Rotman, I've spent two years at CEMFI for my master degree in Economics and Finance. Below I list courses I've taken in both CEMFI and University of Toronto.

In CEMFI (graduate with Distinction):
Mathematics, Statistical Methods for Econometrics, Microeconomics, Uncertainty and Information, Econometrics, Macroeconomics 1, Macroeconomics 2, Industrial Economics, Corporate Finance, Banking, Regulation and Competition Policy, Microeconometrics, Topics in Empirical Economics, Urban Economics, International Economics, Applied Economics Workshop, Economic Policy Workshop.

In University of Toronto:
Have Taken: Microeconomic Theory 1 & 2, Econometrics 1 & 2, Macroeconomic Theory 1 & 2, Topics in Industrial Organization Theory. (5 A+ and 2 A)
Pending: Topics in Microeconomic Theory, Industrial Organization 1, Strategy and Economics
Auditing: Econometric Methods in Marketing, Special Topics in Innovation Economics, Topics in Marketing Strategy.

Description of Research Progress

My main research interest lies in Industrial Organization and Applied Microeconomic Theory. I also have minor research interest in Urban Economics.

I currently have a working paper, which was developed from my master thesis at CEMFI. This paper aims to examine the environmental consequences of a speed limit transportation policy (zone 80) in Barcelona. My contribution in this paper is that I firstly quantitatively identifies how wind affects the dispersion process of transportation air pollution, and I reach an estimation that this zone 80 policy reduces around 8% NO_2 pollution in Barcelona. I also empirically test the "emission-speed curve" with field data. I have presented this paper in 2017 ITEA Annual Conference at Barcelona. For a draft of this working paper, please visit my personal website https://zhenggongtoronto.weebly.com

I am also recently working with Ignatius Horstmann and Bernardo Blum on an empirical IO project, though it is still in a preliminary stage. We find evidence that when firms enter international market and look for business partners, the middle-ranged firms keep most

number of partners and goods in trading. Another stylized fact is a lot of firm enters international market for a short while then quit the market. We aim to use this data to test a dynamic learning model where by participating trade and building relationships, firm not only learn their partner's type but also learn their own profitability.

Beside research projects, I am also active in other research activities. Since Jan 2017 I started to organize the Applied Theory Reading Group, which gathers PhD students from both Economics Department and Rotman School of Management who shares interest in applied theory work to discuss recent research papers. Up to now we have had 11 success meetings.

I am still in my second year of study, and we are required to form a committee by the end of this year. So I haven't form a committee yet. But given my interest in IO and Applied Theory, I will be very likely to invite Heski Bar-Isaac, Matthew Mitchell and Ignatius Horstmann to form my committee. My expected year to finish my PhD study is 2021.