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Applicant
NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp 2016
NBER, Cambridge, Massachusetts, US

March 30, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

Hello, I am a Ph.D. student of economics at LeBow College of Business, Drexel University. I am currently in the second year of the program with a specialization in International Trade and Industrial Organization. I would like to express my sincere interest in attending the Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp, 2016 organized by NBER. In addition to my research interests in firm dynamics, productivity, and trade, I am currently part of a research grant supervised by Dr. Andre Kurmann and Dr. Philip Luck and supported by the Kauffman Foundation which investigates the effect of increased globalization on the decline of entrepreneurship. I believe this workshop will serve as a perfect platform for me to enhance my understanding of the literature and learn from the pioneers in this field of research.

Thank you for your consideration, and if given the opportunity I would really want to attend this workshop.

Sincerely,

Ishan Deep Ghosh

Contact Information of Recommender:

Dr. Philip A. Luck
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Research Statement

Ishan Deep Ghosh

Drexel University

March 31, 2016

As a second-year student in the Ph.D. program of Economics at LeBow College of Business, Drexel University, my research interests are particularly inclined in the direction of new trade theory, R&D, firm dynamics and productivity. In terms of classes, I will have completed two years of graduate coursework by the time the boot camp commences. The classes have strongly focused on International Trade and Industrial Organization both in terms of theory and empirics. The culmination of these two years of coursework for me has created a very well defined scope of research and a foundation to make a significant contribution to the literature.

My preliminary interest in the entrepreneurship literature was sparked by a class reading of Davis and Haltiwanger (2014), which provided evidence of declining job reallocation rates in the U.S. since the 90s and its possible impact on productivity and employment. However as trade economists, we always look for constructive evidence where international trade plays a significant role on macroeconomic implications. The time frame studied by the entrepreneurship literature strikingly coincides with the rise of China as a global trade giant and overall increased economic integration of the world economy. Owing to my previous work as a research assistant, I was then considered for a project funded by the Kauffman Foundation which investigates the effect of increased globalization on the decline of entrepreneurship in the U.S. Building on work by Haltiwanger, Jarmin and Miranda (2013) and Decker, Haltiwanger, Jarmin and Miranda (2014 a,b), the project attempts to answer

to what extent increased trade openness accounts for the observed decline in startups and post-entry dynamics of young businesses in terms of growth and survival. As part of this project, I will have access to U.S. Census micro-data, linking firm- and establishment-level data on firm dynamics with different measures of foreign import exposure.

In terms of my own research, I am working on a paper which investigates the joint complementary effect of global sourcing of intermediates and R&D and innovation on firm level productivity. Using an approach similar to Boler, Moxnes and Moe (2015) and Aw, Roberts and Xu (2011), I introduce the component of offshoring in a model of R&D, Innovation and productivity. Further I attempt to disentangle the channels of product and process innovation and how they have an effect on firm performance. Empirically, I test this novel channel using data from the Encuesta Sobre Estrategies Empresariales (ESEE) survey, a firm-level survey of Spanish manufacturing from 2006 through 2013.

A second paper that I am working on, takes a closer look at the impact of import competition from China on productivity dispersion in the U.S. manufacturing industry. Building on Syverson (2004) and employing the conceptual framework adopted by Acemoglu *et.al* (2016), I am particularly interested how the sectoral linkages of import penetration from China affect within industry productivity dispersion and average productivity from 1991 through 2011. An implication of this work is how firms respond to the force of import competition by investing in R&D and innovation, a phenomenon which has been studied by Bloom *et.al* (2015) in the context of European countries and more recently by Gong and Xu (2015) and Autor *et.al* (2016) and for the U.S. manufacturing industry. Owing to my strong interest in the business dynamics literature, I am specifically interested to explore how increased globalization affect entrepreneur's innovative behavior which might have wide-ranging implications for research and public policy on entrepreneurship.

I believe that the ERBC organized by NBER will help me learn from the pioneers in this field and aid in stimulating questions which could be immensely helpful in contributing to the research grant and possibly define the scope of my own dissertation.

Ishan Deep Ghosh

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Research Interests

My research interests are inclined in the direction of new trade theory, R&D, firm dynamics and productivity. Specifically I attempt to find the joint complementary effect of global sourcing of intermediates and R&D and innovation on firm level productivity further disentangling the channels of product and process innovation and how they have an effect on firm performance.

In a separate project, I am studying how import competition from China affects within industry productivity dispersion and average productivity in the U.S.

Education

Ph.D. student, School of Economics, Drexel University 2014 – current.

M.S. Economics, State University of New York at Buffalo, 2014

Specialization: International Trade

GPA: **3.55 / 4.0**

Thesis: **The GDP, FDI and CO_2 Triangle: Empirical Evidence from the Developing World**

B.S. Economics, University of Calcutta, India, 2011.

Minor: Mathematics and Statistics

Research

Current Projects

Research Assistant for **The Impact of Globalization on U.S. Entrepreneurship** funded by the **Kauffman Foundation** under the supervision of Philip A. Luck and Andre Kurmann (2016 – current)

Research Assistant for Philip Luck at Drexel University (2014 – current)

Past Projects

Research Assistant for Winston Chang at SUNY, Buffalo (2012 – 2014)

Skills

Programming

STATA, MATLAB, SAS

Methods

SUNY, Buffalo Classes: Computational Econometrics (SAS), Economics of Fluctuation and Forecasting (MATLAB), Survey of Multivariate Calculus, Real Analysis, Advanced Topics is International Trade

Drexel Classes: Game Theory, Applied Microeconometrics (STATA), Industrial Organization – Theory and Empirics, Advanced International Trade – Theory and Empirics

List of Current and Completed PhD courses

First Year

First Quarter: Fall, 2014

Game Theory

Mathematical Economics

Statistics for Economists

Second Quarter: Winter, 2015

Advanced Microeconomics I

Advanced Macroeconomics I

Econometrics I

Third Quarter: Spring, 2015

Advanced Microeconomics II

Advanced Macroeconomics II

Applied Microeconometrics

Second Year

First Quarter: Fall, 2015

International Trade

Industrial Organization I

Econometrics II

Second Quarter: Winter, 2016

Empirical International Trade

Industrial Organization I

Third Quarter: Spring, 2016 (Current)

International Trade Seminar

Industrial Organization Seminar

Last updated: March 31, 2016