

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Title: “Trade Boomers: Evidence from the Commodities-for-Manufactures Boom in Brazil”



Speaker: Dr. Ridwan Karim

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics

Lazaridis School of Business & Economics

Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada

Date: April 1st, 2021. 11:00am -12:00pm

Profile of the speaker:

Dr. Ridwan Karim is an Assistant Professor in the Lazaridis School of Business & Economics at Wilfrid Laurier University. He received his PhD in Economics from the University of Toronto in 2019 and MA in Economics from York University in 2012. He was a lecturer at the School of Business, North South University, from May 2012-April 2013. Dr. Karim is an empirical microeconomist, specializing in the fields of Development Economics, International Trade, and Political Economy.

Abstract:

China’s growing prominence as a trade superpower has placed competitive pressure on manufacturing industries in Brazil, while simultaneously bolstering demand for its commodities. We investigate the effects of this so-called manufactures-for-commodities boom on Brazilian birth outcomes from 2000-2010. Exploiting exogenous variation in patterns of trade growth with China across different regions within Brazil, we find that both import and export growth led to higher birth weights for babies, and lower birth rates. Additional evidence is consistent with income effects playing a role in explaining our results, while ruling out better provision of healthcare and changes to household composition as mechanisms. We also find that negative import shocks reduced fertility rates across all age groups for women, suggesting that selectivity in births induced by negative income shocks, combined with concentration of household resources on the children that are born led to better infant health outcomes. We also explore changes in trade-induced pollution levels and social assistance programs as a potential mechanism. Our findings indicate that increased import and export growth can improve infant health, highlighting another potential benefit from trade liberalization.

Zoom Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/9717236368?pwd=aXIWYjFTeTRlYUkySzN1aHA0UDhMdz09>

Zoom Meeting ID: 971 723 6368

Passcode: 6sEKxP