

Master Thesis ideas, 2016

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Implications of BREXIT on the EU's Common Agricultural Policy

BREXIT implies the withdrawal of the UK's contribution to the EU budget and would likely cause changes to the size and distribution of CAP budget amongst remaining EU member states. This project seeks to understand such implications and their effects on EU agricultural production and trade patterns. In addition to descriptive data analysis, quantitative tools such as partial or general equilibrium models are expected to be used to analyze alternative post-BREXIT scenarios.

2016 US presidential election and implications on TTiP and TPP

Globalization including trade liberalization has been under pressure given current political environment. One example is that the 2016 US presidential election may lead to great uncertainties regarding the rectification of the already concluded TPP concerning free trade in the Asia-Pacific and the possibility to conclude the TTiP negotiations between the EU and the US. This project seeks to understand how the 2016 election outcome may influence the fate of these two mega-trade deals and the associated trade implications. This project involves political economy discussion and trade policy modeling.

China's recent agricultural policy reform and global agricultural trade and food security

In the past decade, China has quickly transformed itself into a net food importer, having already become the world's largest import of soybean and cotton; at the same time, China now provides more agricultural domestic support as compared to the average levels in the OECD countries. Facing the trilemma of increasing domestic production at high costs, growing pressure to import more of most major commodities, and exceedingly high domestic stockholding of major agricultural commodities, China must revamp its agricultural policy to manage these challenges. Any substantive changes of China's agricultural policy would likely lead to major influence on the global markets. This project requires PE or CGE modeling.

More generally, students interested in the following topics/keywords can contact me for thesis ideas:

International trade and trade policy modeling, agricultural policy and food security, global value chains in agriculture, partial and computable general equilibrium models