

Joël Blit

Assistant Professor of Economics
University of Waterloo

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Citizenship: Canada, France, Uruguay
Languages: Fluent in English, French, and Spanish

EDUCATION

Ph.D., International Economics, 2010
Department of Economics, University of Toronto.
Dissertation: *Multi-location firms as a medium for the geographic diffusion of knowledge.*
Committee: Daniel Trefler, Chair (Rotman School of Management)
Ajay Agrawal (Rotman School of Management)
Ignatius Horstmann (Rotman School of Management)
Joanne Oxley (Rotman School of Management)

M.A., Economics, 2003
Department of Economics, University of Western Ontario.
Thesis: *Impact of tuition on medical school accessibility: discrimination through parental subsidies.*

M.B.A. (with Distinction, Dean's List), International Strategy, 2002
INSEAD, Fontainebleau Campus, Singapore Exchange.

M.A.Sc., Computer Engineering, 1999
Faculty of Engineering, University of Waterloo.
Thesis: *Direct models for online stock trading.*

B.A.Sc. (Honours), Engineering Science, 1997
Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, University of Toronto.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2011-Pres. Assistant Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON.

2010-2011 Assistant Professor of Economics and International Affairs
Elliott School of International Affairs and Department of Economics
George Washington University, Washington, DC.

AFFILIATIONS

2018-pres. UW Artificial Intelligence Institute
2016-pres. UW Problem Lab, Advisor
2015-pres. Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Senior Fellow
2013-2017 Creative Destruction Lab, Member of Advisory Board

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Economics of Innovation, Technology Clusters, Intellectual Property, Entrepreneurship,
Economic Geography, International Trade

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2018 Outstanding Performance Award, University of Waterloo
2011 Finalist for Barry M. Richman Award for Best Dissertation in Intl Management
2009 Dorothy J. Powell Graduate Scholarship, University of Toronto
2006 Harry B. Eastman Award (outstanding 2nd year paper in International Econ)
2005-08 SSHRC Canadian Graduate Scholarship (\$105,000)
2004 Ontario Graduate Scholarship
2004,03 Royal Bank Graduate Fellowship in Public and Economic Policy
2001 Sasakawa Foundation Scholarship for Cross-Cultural Leadership
2001 INSEAD Canadian Foundation Scholarship
1997-99 NSERC Graduate Scholarship
1994-99 Academic All-Canadian
1993-97 Canada Scholar
1996 Engineering Athlete of the Year
1993 Toronto Francophone School Board Student of the Year
1993 Governor General's Medal
1993 Athlete of the Year

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2016- Principal Investigator, Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Insight Development Grant (Co-applicant: Mikal Skuterud).
Title: "The potential for a selective immigration policy to increase innovation; evidence from Canada"
Grant amount: \$60,731
- 2014-16 Principal Investigator, Institute for New Economic Thinking/Centre for International
Governance Innovation Research Grant (Co-PI: Chris Liu)
Title: "Environment and dynamics of regional innovation"
Grant amount: \$48,635
- 2014-15 Principal Investigator, UW SSHRC 4A Research Grant (Co-applicant: Mikal Skuterud)
Title: "Can a selective immigration policy raise innovation? Evidence from the
Canadian Points System"
Grant amount: \$8000
- 2013-14 Principal Investigator, UW LITE Research Grant
Title: "Platform for experiential learning of game theory"
Grant amount: \$4250
- 2012-14 Principal Investigator, Centre for International Governance Innovation Research Grant
Title: "Benefits to the international governance of intellectual property; intellectual
property rights and private sector R&D in a globalised world"
Grant amount: \$8750, most of which went to graduate student support
- 2011-12 Co-Principal Investigator, GW Center for International Business Education and
Research (PI: Wenjie Chen)
Title: "External knowledge sourcing through domestic and foreign acquisitions; impact
of M&As on target and acquirer innovation"
Grant amount: \$14,937
- 2011 Principal Investigator, George Washington Institute of Public Policy Research Scholar
Title: "Intellectual property rights and firm R&D in a globalized world"
Grant amount: \$10,000
- 2011 Principal Investigator, GW Center for International Business Education and Research
Title: "Do stronger intellectual property rights induce more innovation? Evidence that
the intellectual property rights regime of trade partners impacts domestic firm
innovation"
Grant amount: \$9447
- 2011 Principal Investigator, GW Institute for International Economic Policy Research Grant
Title: "Does firm R&D respond to the IPR regime of its export markets?"
Grant amount: \$3414
- 2010-11 Principal Investigator, NBER Innovation Policy Group Research Grant
Title: "Entrepreneurship and patent data"
Grant amount: \$20,000

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

“Foreign R&D satellites as a medium for the international diffusion of knowledge.” *Canadian Journal of Economics*, 51(4): 1118-1150.

“An analysis of the patenting rates of Canada’s ethnic populations.” *Canadian Public Policy*, Special issue on ICT, forthcoming. (with Mikal Skuterud and Jue Zhang)

“Automation and the future of work: scenarios and policy options.” *Centre for International Governance Innovation Policy Papers*, No. 174, 2018. (with Samantha St. Amand and Joanna Wajda)

“Learning remotely: R&D satellites, intra-firm linkages, and knowledge sourcing.” *Journal of Economics and Management Strategy*, 26(4): 757-81, 2017.

“Optimal patent regimes in a globalized world: lessons for Canada,” *Centre for International Governance Innovation Policy Papers*, No. 120, 2017.

“What goes on beneath the surface of reconfiguration? The impact of redeployment via activity addition and subtraction on firm scope and turnover.” *Advances in Strategic Management*, Special issue on resource redeployment and corporate strategy, 35: 185-216. 2016. (with Chris Liu and Will Mitchell)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“Are patents really necessary?” Article in *New Thinking on Innovation Special Report*. Centre for International Governance Innovation. 2017.

“Toward an optimal patent regime for Canada.” Article in *New Thinking on Innovation Special Report*. Centre for International Governance Innovation. 2017.

“The U.K. rejected one of humanity’s greatest achievements.” Op-Ed published in print and online by the *Toronto Star* and other media outlets. 2016.

“Brexit leavers are right to feel aggrieved.” Op-Ed published in print and online by the *Toronto Star* and other media outlets. 2016.

“The case for intellectual property rights: should patents be strengthened, weakened, or abolished altogether,” *Centre for International Governance Innovation Policy Brief*, 2015, No. 70.

“The value of the use of the CSI repertoire by online music services.” Expert report for the *Copyright Board of Canada*. 2013, 44. (with Paul Audley and Marcel Boyer)

WORKING PAPERS

"The impact of patent protection on R&D. Evidence using export markets." Revise and resubmit at *Journal of Economics and Management Strategy* (with Mauricio Zelaya).

"Can skilled immigration policy raise innovation? Evidence from the Canadian 'Points System'." Revise and resubmit at Journal of Economic Geography (with Mikal Skuterud and Jue Zhang)

"Are knowledge spillovers really localized? Insights using machine learning." (with Mikko Packalen)

"An equilibrium theory of regional change" (with Chris Liu)

"Repeated interactions and knowledge transfers: micro-foundations of local and intra-firm knowledge diffusion."

"Organizational choice under heterogeneous firm productivities."

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 Canadian Economics Association, Montreal, PQ.
- 2016 Rimini Conference in Economics and Finance, Waterloo, ON.
- 2015 Canadian Economics Association, Toronto, ON.
- 2014 Canadian Economics Association, Vancouver, BC.
- 2011 Academy of Management, San Antonio, TX.
- 2011 Canadian Economics Association, Ottawa, ON.
- 2010 Academy of Management, Montreal, PQ.
- 2009 Canadian Economics Association, Toronto, ON.
- 2009 CCC Doctoral Colloquium, Copenhagen, DK.

INVITED CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 OECD Global Forum on Productivity (invited by Michael Veall), Ottawa, ON.
- 2018 Searle Conf. on Innovation Econ. (discussant) (inv. by Daniel Spulber), Chicago, IL.
- 2017 Searle Conf. on Innovation Economics (invited by Daniel Spulber), Chicago, IL.
- 2016 IPR and Innovation in the 4th Ind. Rev. (invited by Rohinton Medhora), Toronto, ON.
- 2015 McMaster University Economics Seminar (invited by Pau Pujolas), Hamilton, ON.
- 2014 Société Canadienne de Science Economique (invited by Marcel Boyer), Ottawa, ON.
- 2009 Strategic Management Society Conference (inv. by Wilbur Chung), Washington, DC.

POLICY CONSULTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

- 2018 Briefed the G7 Sherpas on Automation and the Future of Work
- 2018 Roundtable on "The Digital Economy: Jobs of the Future and the Emergence of a New Social Compact", IMF Spring Meetings
- 2018 Expert Roundtable on the Future of Work and the G7
- 2018 Expert Workshop on Canada and the Future of International Trade Governance
- 2018 Workshop on CETA and the Future of Canada-EU Relations
- 2017 Advised the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Steve Verheul, Canada's Chief NAFTA Negotiator, on Canada's IP position in NAFTA negotiations
- 2017 Working lunch with Stuart Dwyer, U.S. Acting Ambassador to Canada
- 2017 Briefed Raj Saini, Member of Parliament and Member of Foreign Affairs Committee

- 2017 Consultation on Canada's new intellectual property strategy
- 2017 Consultation into the IP aspects of NAFTA and other trade negotiations
- 2016 Advised officials at Ontario Ministry of International Trade on innovation issues
- 2016 Towards an Innovation Strategy for Canada Workshop
- 2015 Advised the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, on innovation and entrepreneurship
- 2015 Provided regional innovation data and figures for Waterloo Region Planning Group
- 2012 Forum on Early Stage Venture Capital

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

- 2018 Laurie Nealin (Journalist for Canadian School Counsellor), AI and future of careers.
- 2017 Don Pittis (CBC News), "New job for Obama as music industry continues to struggle."
- 2016 Brian Milner (Globe and Mail), "How to diversify an economy."
- 2015 Chelsea Gomez (CBC News, the National), Briefing on Canada's productivity gap in preparation for the federal leader's debate.

PH.D. STUDENT SUPERVISION

- Minna Hong, Accounting, University of Waterloo. Member of committee.
- Jue Zhang, Economics, University of Waterloo, 2017. Member of committee.
- Fazli Wahid, Management Science, University of Waterloo, 2015. Member of committee
- Mauricio Zelaya, Economics, University of Waterloo, 2014. Co-supervisor
- Artur Kolasa, Economics, George Washington University, 2013. Member of committee

M.A. STUDENT SUPERVISION

- Yuanxiaohui Fang, University of Waterloo, 2018. Supervisor

COURSES TAUGHT

- ECON674: Co-op Capstone Research Project
- ECON673: Economics of Innovation
- ECON412: Game Theory
- ECON432: International Trade
- ECON232: Introduction to International Economics
- ECON212: Introduction to Game Theory
- ECO2181: International Trade Theory and Policy (George Washington University)

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

- 1996 Defense Research Assistant, Ministry of Defense, Québec, PQ.
Designed and implemented NATO battlefield optical identification system
- 1994 Meteorology Assistant, Canadian Meteorological Centre, Montréal, PQ.
Developed, maintained and tested a new Agro-Météo Unix platform
- 1993 Senior Counselor, Camp Arowhon, Algonquin Park, ON.

AD HOC REFEREE

Canadian Journal of Economics (3)
Canadian Public Policy
European Economic Review
Economic Inquiry
Journal of Economics and Management Strategy
Journal of International Economics (5)
Journal of Urban Economics
Management Science (6)
Review of Economics and Statistics
Review of International Economics