# STEPHEN F. LIN

www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~slin slin@fas.harvard.edu

#### HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Placement Director: Kenneth Rogoff KROGOFF@HARVARD.EDU 617-495-4022
Placement Director: Caroline Hoxby CHOXBY@HARVARD.EDU 617-496-3588
Graduate Student Coordinator: Nicole Tateosian NATATEOS@FAS.HARVARD.EDU 617-495-8927

#### **Office Contact Information**

Department of Economics

Littauer Center

Fax: 419-710-3672

Harvard University

Cambridge, MA 02138

Personal Information: U.S. citizen

# **Undergraduate Studies**:

B.A., Economics, University of Pennsylvania, summa cum laude, 1996

B.A.S., Systems Engineering, University of Pennsylvania, summa cum laude, 1996

#### **Graduate Studies:**

Economics, Harvard University, 2000 to present

Thesis Title: "Essays on International Trade, Technology Diffusion, and the Organization of

Production"

Expected Ph.D. Completion Date: June 2006

#### Thesis Committee and References:

Professor Elhanan Helpman
Department of Economics
Department of Economics
Littauer Center 229
Littauer Center 319
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 495-4690

Assistant Professor Pol Antràs
Department of Economics
Littauer Center 319
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 495-1236

ehelpman@harvard.edu pantras@fas.harvard.edu

Professor Robert Barro Department of Economics Littauer Center 218 Harvard University Cambridge, MA 02138 (617) 495-3203 rbarro@harvard.edu

# **Teaching and Research Fields:**

International trade, Macroeconomics

# **Teaching Experience:**

Spring 2003 International Trade Policy (undergraduate), Harvard University, teaching fellow

for Professor Elhanan Helpman

# **Teaching Experience:** (continued)

Fall 2002 & 2003 International Trade (graduate), Harvard University, grader for Professor

Elhanan Helpman

2002 – present Quincy House, Harvard University, tutor in economics

### **Research Experience and Other Employment:**

9/2001 – present	Harvard University
-	Research Assistant to Professor Robert Barro
7/2001 - 9/2001	Goldman Sachs Asia
	Summer Associate, Asia-Pacific Economics Research
7/1999 – 6/2000	Council of Economic Advisers
	Research Assistant, Macroeconomics Research & Forecasting
10/1996 - 7/1998	McKinsey & Company
	Business Analyst
6/1995 – 7/1995	U.S. Department of State
	Summer Analyst, Economics Section, U.S. Embassy in Singapore

### **Professional Activities**

2005 - present Referee, Quarterly Journal of Economics

Spring 2004 Invited presentation, NBER International Trade and Organizations Program

Meeting

#### Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2002 - 2005	Graduate Fellowship, Bradley Foundation
2000 - 2002	Graduate Fellowship, Harvard University
1996	Bernard Shanbaum Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Economics (top
	student in graduating class), University of Pennsylvania

# **Research Papers:**

Distance, International Trade, and International Knowledge Diffusion (Job Market Paper)

In many open economy models of growth, the size and the persistence of cross-country income differences depend on the strength of international technology diffusion. While recent empirical studies find that geographic distance and language barriers impede cross-country flows of knowledge, the channels through which these effects operate are not well understood. Using patent citations as a measure of knowledge diffusion, this paper quantifies the importance of international trade as a channel for these localization effects. Unlike previous studies of trade and technology diffusion, I directly confront the issue of causality. In order to estimate the causal effect of trade on knowledge diffusion, I use the product of geographic distance and the weight-to-value ratio of each exporter's output as an instrument for bilateral imports. I find no evidence of a causal effect of trade. Accordingly, the effects of geographic and linguistic distance on knowledge diffusion appear to be essentially independent of international trade. However, given the imprecision of the estimated relationship between trade and knowledge flows, this decomposition must be interpreted with caution.

(Research Papers continue on next page)

### **Research Papers:** (continued)

When Do Multinational Firms Outsource? Evidence from the Hotel Industry (with Catherine Thomas)

Multinational firms face two questions in deciding whether or not to outsource a stage of production. First, where should production be located? Second, who should own or control the productive assets? In this paper, we test two theories of these outsourcing decisions, and we focus on their predictions for the ownership/control decision. We adapt the Antras and Helpman (2004) property rights and Grossman and Helpman (2004) managerial incentives models of the multinational firm to a setting in which a hotel headquarters chooses the size and organizational form of each of its hotel properties. The property rights model predicts a monotonic relationship between the size of a hotel and the probability that it is owned by the headquarters. In contrast, the managerial incentives model predicts an inverted-U relationship between size and the likelihood that the headquarters controls the hotel. We test these propositions using new data on the organizational form, location, and size of more than 4000 hotel properties that operate under 15 different brands in 103 countries. Four hotel brands exhibit patterns that are consistent with both models. For three other brands, organizational structures are consistent with the predictions of the managerial incentives model and inconsistent with the property rights model. These results suggest that agency problems are an important influence on the organizational choices of multinational firms. However, the relative importance of agency and holdup problems may vary substantially across brands.