



Nanyang Technological University
DIVISION OF ECONOMICS
Seminar Series

The Division of Economics invites you to a seminar by Assistant Professor Ben LI

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- Speaker** : **Ben LI**
Boston College
- Topic** : **"Trade and Geopolitics"**
- Chairperson** : **Assistant Professor CHEN Xiaoping**
Division of Economics
School of Humanities & Social Sciences
- Date** : **18th May 2016 (Wednesday)**
- Time** : **2.30pm to 4.00pm**
- Venue** : **Meeting Room 6 (HSS-04-91)**
Nanyang Technological University
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
14, Nanyang Drive
Singapore 637332

About the Speaker:

Ben is an Assistant Professor at Boston College, specializing in international trade, urban economics and economic history. He has done many interesting and important researches, which have been published in American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Journal of Urban Economics, IMF Economic Review, Southern Economic Journal, and Economic Letters.

Abstract:

Since the Age of Discovery, the world has grown integrated economically while remaining disintegrated politically as a collection of nation states. The nation-state system is robust because borders, as state dividers, interact with economic integration to absorb shocks. We build a tractable general equilibrium model of international trade and national borders in the world. Over a longer time horizon, declining trade costs alter trade volumes across states but also incentivize states to redraw borders, causing states to form, change, and be dissolved. Our model offers rich implications for global geopolitics, including political geography, its interplay with natural geography, state-size distribution, and the frequency and nature of military disputes. These implications are supported by historical data.

Reservation:

Admission is free. Please reply to h-dae@ntu.edu.sg to confirm your attendance.