

**Abstract:** This talk will discuss ways in which our understanding of international trade may be advanced using analytic methods. It will consist of two parts. The first part, based on the paper "Trade and interdependence in a spatially complex world", will be concerned with spatial reach of economic shocks in standard models of international trade consistent with the gravity equation. The second part will be based on a paper in collaboration with Glen Weyl, which is currently being written and whose tentative title is "Why are some imperfect competition models so much more tractable than others? How to flexibly approximate incidence in closed form". The paper introduces a novel perspective on demand functions and supply functions and proposes ways to tractably approximate equilibrium systems that would otherwise have to be solved numerically. In the case of the Melitz model, this approach leads to novel generalizations that are significantly more flexible, but still allow for explicit aggregation over heterogeneous firms.