Motivation

- Trade liberalization is important
  - Regional economic development
  - Industry adjustment and firm
  - Labor market

- Implications to women
  - Increased job opportunities
  - Family formation/fertility?

This paper

- Question: women’s responses to tariff liberalization in marital and fertility decisions.

Why China?

- WTO accession accelerates export expansion.
- Large geographic diversity in industry composition, feasible for identification.

Background

- Relatively close economy before WTO accession
- Become a member of WTO in 2001
- Significant trade policy change
- Dramatic increase in export value

Data

- Outcome Variable of Interest
  - Employment share, marital status, and fertility outcomes
- Tariff Data: World Bank UNCTAD TRAINS Database
- Controls from 1990 population Census and China City Statistics Yearbook

Identification Strategy

- Cross-industry and cross PREFecture variations in export tariff change.
- Long difference model:

\[ \Delta Y_{spfr} = \theta_1 \Delta E_{pt} + \theta_2 \Delta f_{pt} + \Delta X_{pr} + \alpha_t + \sigma_c + \epsilon_{spfr} \]

Key findings

- Increased female non-agricultural job opportunity.
- Marriage rate decline, delay in first marriage, and reduced fertility.

Conclusions

Export tariff decline influences women
- Less likely to get married
- Delays their first marriage
- Reduce the number of children.