

Chien Xen

Consultant

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Languages: English



Expertise

- Antitrust
- Data Science and Analytics
- Mergers
- Performance, Productivity and Efficiency
- Public Policy and Impact Assessment
- Sustainability and Climate Change

Sectors

- Transport
- Water

Profile

Chien is a member of Oxera's Transport, Analytics and Impact Assessment teams. He has extensive experience working in the aviation sector, on environmental issues and impact assessment. He has an in-depth understanding of the aviation sector, having worked on a number of high-profile cases, such as the merger between Air Canada and Air Transat, providing advice to hub airports on abuse of dominance issues and airline state aid issues arising as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Chien is experienced in providing cutting-edge analytics, having developed Oxera's extensive dataset of airline fares and emissions based on Google Flights data. As part of other work he has done, Chien has also submitted compelling and influential analysis to regulators and competition authorities in the context of the price appeals of regulated utilities.

Chien joined Oxera in 2018 after completing an undergraduate degree at the University of Cambridge, focusing on econometrics and industrial organisation. In his previous work, Chien worked in the research department of a commercial bank, where he used time series techniques to forecast macroeconomic variables to predict turning points in business cycles.

Selected professional experience

- Advice to a large UK airport on the government's methodology of setting travel corridors and the impact of vaccination programmes on travel regimes (2021)

- Advice to a European airline on the effects of a large state aid measure on effective competition (2021)
- Advice to a large UK water company on its approach to investment appraisals: designed an approach that incorporates best practice in economic assessments and that is aligned with strategic goals, such as the move to net-zero carbon emissions (2020–)
- Advice to a large UK water company on the PR19 water CMA appeals, covering a range of issues on econometrics and cost assessment used to predict future efficient cost allowances using forecasted cost drivers—including analysis considering the choice of efficiency benchmark, issues around the inclusion of additional data to update models, and cost driver selection (2020)
- Advice to a large UK water company on the PR19 water CMA appeals, focusing on the assessment of efficient costs of its large environmental programme (2020)
- Advice to a government on a proposed merger between two large airlines, considering a wide set of factors related to public interest: designed and implemented an econometric approach to assessing price effects arising from the merger; carried out a welfare analysis of the merger, as well as other government objectives such as tourism; considered the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and other expected changes in the aviation industry on forecasts (2020)
- Advice to a UK gas distributor, considering the impact of regional cost factors and the evaluation of efficient costs for large enhancement projects (2020)
- Advice to a large European electricity system operator, analysing the comparability of cost bases of different operators across Europe (2020)
- Advice to a large Asian airline on a potential abuse of dominance by an airport; assessed market definition issues around the airport and whether there is a risk that the airport has significant market power (2020)
- Advice to a European water regulator on approaches by different European utilities regulators to incorporate quality measures within cost benchmarking: considered how companies may be incentivised to achieve an optimal level of quality for its customers, taking into account their cost benchmarking approach, including DEA and SFA (2019–20)
- Analysis for a large UK airport on the use of different price indices to calculate inflation and its applications for setting regulatory allowances: used machine learning techniques to endogenously identify structural breaks in different price series to inform whether methodological changes over time led to an inconsistent price series; forecasted price indices using different time series approaches (2019)
- Advice on the technical aspects behind the calculation of the value for money of HS2 for the UK Department for Transport: considered issues around forecasts of key inputs into the business case, such as passenger numbers and the value of time (2019)
- Analysis on the value for money of Northern Powerhouse Rail for a Dispatches documentary, considering the demand response, value of time savings and wider impacts; forecasted passenger demand numbers and carried out a cost–benefit analysis (2019)
- Analysis on the design of new airport slot-allocation mechanisms for the Department of Transport, drawing on market design and experimental economics: analysed large aviation datasets to capture key features of different aviation markets and airline business models; designed an experiment to capture strategic airline behaviour in different slot-allocation mechanisms and analysed the results (2019)
- Advice to a large UK gas distribution company on productivity growth in the UK gas distribution sector, accounting for future trends such as secular stagnation and expected future developments in the gas sector (2019)

- Advice to a large European airport on the theory and practice of peak pricing on airport charges: researched academic literature on airline demand responses to airport charges; reviewed peak pricing regimes at a range of large congested European airports to provide options on how peak pricing may be implemented and the incentive properties on different airlines (2019)
- Advice to a large European airline on the theory and empirical evidence of labour disputes: used theoretical models to analyse the impact of flight compensation laws on the balance of bargaining power in the context of labour disputes, with implications for consumer outcomes (2019)
- Assessed size of overcharge for a batteries cartel using econometric analysis (2018)
- Analysis for a large European airline on the competitive effects of a potential vertical foreclosure, where an upstream business terminated the lease of aircraft for the European airline (2018)
- Advice and analysis on the benefits of new or reopened railway schemes in the UK to a UK rail body, including total net benefits and regional employment effects (2018–19).
- Analysed the effects of a rail franchise bid on the ability and incentives to raise rail fares for a large UK train operating company (2018)
- Econometric modelling of the water efficiency of UK water companies; explored the impact of different econometric models capturing different cost drivers on the efficiency of each company (2017)
- Estimated the benefits of UK railway investments for each region in the UK (2017)
- Wealth Management Research at OCBC: researched and presented daily and weekly market updates to over 900 bank staff; developed a Bayesian model to predict turning points in the Malaysian business cycle, after reviewing the relevant academic literature; significantly influenced the bank's macroeconomic view on Malaysia; conveyed the bank's economic and investment ideas in short, concise write-ups to over 2,000 bank customers (2016)
- Selected publications
- Horncastle, A. and Ng, C.X. (forthcoming), 'Efficiency analysis in the water industry in England & Wales', Handbook of Production Economics, Vol 2, Springer, 2019.
- Ng, C.X. (2019), 'What is the impact of new rail stations on deprivation?', Papers and Proceedings of the European Transport Conference, Dublin.
- Elvery, S., Ng, C.X. and Shepherd, S. (2019), 'What is the economic and financial case for new or local regional rail lines?', Papers and Proceedings of the European Transport Conference, Dublin.

Qualifications

- BA Economics, University of Cambridge, UK