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Samuel Kortum is the James Burrows Moffatt Professor of Economics at Yale University. He currently works on issues in international economics, but his early research explored technological change, inspired by Robert Evenson, Ariel Pakes, and Zvi Griliches (Evenson and Pakes were his dissertation advisors at Yale and Griliches was theirs). Kortum's contribution from this period appeared as "Research, Patenting, and Technological Change" in *Econometrica*. It showed how a process of random search for better techniques of production could serve as an analytical foundation for understanding economic growth. As an assistant professor at Boston University, Kortum began working with Jonathan Eaton, who pushed him to consider the international dimensions of technological change. They soon collaborated to build quantitative models of international technology diffusion, in which ideas from the research of one country contribute to the growth of another. Almost by chance they thought to incorporate goods trade into that framework, discovering that it provided a transparent method of extending Ricardian trade theory to a world of many goods and countries separated by trade frictions. Their paper "Technology, Geography, and Trade," was published in *Econometrica* in 2002 and earned them the Frisch Medal in 2004. Eaton and Kortum have collaborated ever since, receiving the Onassis Prize in International Trade in 2018. Before coming to Yale, Kortum was a professor at Boston University, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Chicago, where he served as an editor of the *Journal of Political Economy* from 2008-2012. He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society and Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Kortum received his bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University in 1983 and Ph.D. in Economics from Yale in 1992. He is married to Hyun Ja Shin, a director in Yale's Office of Career Strategy. They have two children, William and Grace, both of whom are in college.