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Citizenship: China, F-1 visa

Fields of Concentration:

Primary: Labor Economics

Secondary: Economics of Education, Public Economics, Chinese Economy

Desired Teaching:

Labor Economics

Economics of Education

Applied Econometrics

Microeconomics

Chinese Economy

Comprehensive Examinations Completed:

2014 (Oral): Labor Economics, Econometrics

2013 (Written): Microeconomics, Macroeconomics

Dissertation Title: *Three Essays in Labor Economics*

Committee:

Professor Joseph Altonji

Professor Emily Oster

Professor Cormac O'Dea

Expected Completion Date: May 2019

Degrees:

Ph.D., Economics, Yale University, 2019 (expected)

M.Phil., Economics, Yale University, 2016

M.A., Economics, Yale University, 2015

B.A. Economics and Mathematics (with high honors), Swarthmore College, 2013

Fellowships, Honors and Awards:

University Dissertation Fellowship, Yale University, 2018-2019
Carl Arvid Anderson Prize Fellowship, Yale University, 2017
Daniel Lathrop Lawton Scholarship, Yale University, 2015-2017
Fan Family Fellowship, Yale University, 2014-2015
Phi Beta Kappa, 2013
C. V. Starr Scholarship, Swarthmore College, 2012-2013
The Eugene M. Lang Summer Initiative Awards, Swarthmore College, 2012
The Lotte Lazarsfeld Bailyn Research Endowment, Swarthmore College, 2011-2012

Research Grants:

Cowles Foundation Structural Micro Program (\$4,000)

Teaching Experience:

Spring 2018, Teaching Assistant to Prof. Evangelia Chalioti, Intermediate Microeconomics, Yale College
Spring 2017, Teaching Assistant to Prof. Joseph Altonji, Economics of Education, Yale College
Fall 2012, Teaching Assistant to Prof. Charles Grinstead, Probability Theory (advanced honor seminar), Swarthmore College

Research and Work Experience:

Research Assistant to Professor Joseph Altonji, Yale University, 2013-2015
Research Assistant to Professor Emily Oster, Brown University, 2012-2013
Research Assistant to Professor Stephen O'Connell, Swarthmore College, 2012
Research Assistant to Professor Steve Wang, Swarthmore College, 2011-2012

Publications:

“Estimating the number of pulses in a mass extinction” (2018) with Steve Wang, *Paleobiology*, Volume 44, Issue 2, pp. 199-218.
“Characteristics of Major Ions in Snow and River Water in Svalbard” (2009) with Shichang Kang, Yanwei Xu and Qiangong Zhang, *Chinese Journal of Polar Research*, Volume 21, Issue 1, pp. 76-79

Working Papers:

“Internal Migration and Extended Families in China.” (2018) *Job Market Paper*
“The Labor Market Return to Advanced Degrees.” (2018) with Joseph Altonji
“Estimating the value of educational quality in China using Beijing school district assignment policies.” (2018)

“Cooperative Tile-based 360-degree Panoramic Streaming in Heterogeneous Networks using Scalable Video Coding,” (2018) with Xiaoyi Zhang, Xinjue Hu, Shervin Shirmohammadi and Lin Zhang, Revise and Resubmit, *IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology*.

Works In Progress:

The dynamics of college major, graduate degrees and occupation choices, with Joseph Altonji

Surname discrimination in Chinese justice system

Pattern-aware time series prediction for head movement in 360-degree panoramic video, with Xiaoyi Zhang and Shervin Shirmohammadi

Seminar and Conference Presentations:

2018: Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting, AEA Annual Meeting

2011: Geological Society of America Annual Meeting

Referee Service:

Journal of Labor Economics

Languages:

Chinese (native), English (fluent)

References:

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Dissertation Abstract

Chapter 1: Internal Migration and Extended Families in China [Job Market Paper]

In this paper, I study how rural-to-urban migration in China affects households’ inter-generational behavior, and the effects of policies targeting migrant households on their welfare. Internal migration from rural to urban areas can have significant welfare effects on migrants and their extended families. In China, migration is often temporary, and most family members of migrant workers are left behind. In these households, many left-behind grandparents look after the children of migrating parents. However, the behavioral and welfare effects of government policies directed towards rural households with potential migrants remain unknown.

Using five Chinese data sets on the migration patterns, education choices, financial transfers, and health of multi-generational families, I first present a rich set of stylized facts about migration and household behavior. The evidence shows that in many rural households, parents migrate to urban areas for work when healthy grandparents are able to provide childcare. When the grandparents are sick, migrating parents return to the rural area to provide elder care and pay for their parents' healthcare. With the facts as a guide, I develop and estimate a structural model of the behavior of migrants and their families. The model features an informal limited-commitment contract over child care, financial transfers, and elder care. Parents and grandparents play a sequential game by choosing migration status, informal contract status, remittances, children's education, and grandparents' healthcare. The estimates suggest that poor households adopt the informal contract so that rural consumption, education, and healthcare are funded by the migrants' remittance.

I then use the model to evaluate the effects of a set of hypothetical government policies. An urban education subsidy promotes children's education, increases the migrants' consumption in the urban area, and does not affect the grandparents' welfare. But it does not alleviate the problem of children left behind as the government had hoped. An improved insurance coverage that lowers out-of-pocket healthcare costs would reduce the grandparents' demand for the informal contract. It would generate a welfare gain to the grandparents, discourage parents' migration, and increase children's education. The policy counterfactual outcomes imply that policies intended to improve the welfare of one family member can affect the welfare, consumption behavior and migration decisions of all three generations through intra-household cooperation. The design of these policies should account for intra-household responses.

Chapter 2: The Labor Market Returns to Advanced Degrees (with Joseph G. Altonji)

Graduate study has grown rapidly in the U.S. and in other developed countries, but causal evidence on the value of particular degrees is in short supply. In this paper, we estimate the returns to a broad set of graduate degrees. The analysis employs a large number of NSF surveys that provide rich education histories and multiple observations for some individuals. The data allow us to study the interplay among undergraduate field, graduate education, and occupation choice in determining earnings. To control for heterogeneity in preferences and ability, we use fixed effects for combinations of field specific undergraduate and graduate degrees obtained by the last time we observe an individual. The key assumption is that beliefs about talents, preferences, and labor market returns do not change between when a person chose the observed pre-graduate school job and when she started graduate school. We obtain four main results. First, we find large differences across graduate fields in effects on earnings. Second, the incremental value of a given advanced degree often depends on the undergraduate field. Third, the contribution of occupational upgrading to the earnings gain varies with the BA-advanced degree combination. Finally, multivariate regression methods that do not account for selection bias in who chooses particular undergraduate field and graduate fields are often highly misleading.

Chapter 3: Estimating the value of educational quality in China using Beijing school district assignment policies

I exploit a change in Beijing's primary school admissions policy in 2014 to estimate parents' willingness to pay for primary school quality. The new policy required primary schools

to admit students from their assigned neighborhoods without admission exams. I estimate the magnitude of the parents' willingness to pay for educational quality through the change in relative housing prices. I use three identification strategies to distinguish the value of school quality from the value of other local public goods. First, I employ a difference-in-differences analysis to estimate the changes in prices using all houses in Beijing. Second, I combine the diff-in-diff approach and Black (1999)'s boundary discontinuity design to estimate the value of education quality using the subsample of houses near the school district boundaries. Third, I compare the policy effects on sales prices with effects on rents, exploiting the fact that the location of a rental unit does not determine school assignment. I find that parents' additional willing to pay for a flat in the top 5% of school districts ranges between \$24,452 and \$54,186. These revealed valuations for high quality schools are large, particularly compared to the average monthly income of \$1,068 in 2014.