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Education

University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

Ph.D. in Economics, Department of Economics, expected May 2021

Peking University, China

Master in Economics, HSBC Business School, 2016

Sun Yat-sen University, China

B.B.A. in Marketing, School of Business, 2012

Field of Interests

Public Economics, Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Regional Economics

Research Papers

“Place-based college admission, migration and the spatial distribution of human capital: Evidence from China”,
(*Job market paper*) [[link](#)]

“Marrying up: Trading off spousal income and height” (with Pierre-André Chiappori, David Ong and Junsen Zhang), working paper [[link](#)]

“Understanding college dropout in the US” (with Douglas Harris and Christopher Taber), work in progress

Publications

“Hard to get: The scarcity of women and the competition for high-income men in urban China” (with David Ong and Junsen Zhang), *Journal of Development Economics*, 144 (2020): 1-19. [[link](#)]

“Collaboration incentives: Endogenous selection into single and coauthorships by surname initials in economics and management” (with David Ong, Ho Fai Chan and Benno Torgler), *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 147 (2018): 41-57. [[link](#)]

“Yen or Yuan? The law of one price and economic integration in Asia” (with Vinh Dang and Kenneth Chan), *The World Economy*, 41 (2018): 171–193. [[link](#)]

“Assessing market integration in the ASEAN with retail price data” (with Vinh Dang), *Pacific Economic Review*, 22.4 (2017): 510-532. [[link](#)]

Conference Presentations

2020: Econometric Society World Congress (virtual); Economic Science Association Global Online Meeting (virtual).

2019: Econometric Society North America Summer Meeting, Seattle.

2018: AEA Annual Meeting (poster), Philadelphia.

2015: SOLE-EALE World Conference (poster), Montréal.

Teaching and Work Experiences

Teaching Assistant, UW-Madison

Econ 400: Intro to Applied Econometrics (undergraduate), Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2020

Econ 441: Analytical Public Finance (undergraduate), Spring 2018

Econ 330: Money and Banking (undergraduate), Fall 2017

Mentor, Master students summer research group, UW-Madison, 2019, 2020

Research Assistant, Prof. Corina Mommaerts and Anita Mukherjee, UW-Madison, Summer 2019

Graduate Research Fellow, Institute for Research on Poverty, UW-Madison, 2018-2020

Co-organizer, Public Economics Student Seminar, UW-Madison, 2019

Selected Scholarships and Awards

Department Fellowship, UW-Madison, 2016, 2020

Culbertson Best Field Paper Scholarship, UW-Madison, 2019

Excellent Graduates, Peking University, 2016

Tang Lixin Scholarship, Peking University, 2015-2021

National Scholarship, Ministry of Education of China, 2014

Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Award (Exchange Student), Australian Government, 2010

Academic Scholarship, Sun Yat-sen University, 2009, 2010, 2011

Skills

Programming: Julia, MATLAB, Stata

Language: English (fluent), Chinese (native)

References

Jeffrey Smith (Primary)

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Abstract of Selected Papers

“Place-based college admission, migration and the spatial distribution of human capital: Evidence from China”, (*Job market paper*) [\[link\]](#)

How to allocate college seats across regions is an important but often controversial question. It may imply a policy tradeoff between efficiency in human capital production and equality of opportunities for people growing up in different places. Regional disparity in college access also impacts the spatial distribution of college-educated workers and thus affects regional inequality in development. This paper studies the province-based college admission quotas in China and evaluates potential reforms. Despite longstanding concerns about the unequal quota allocation across provinces, little is known because China's college entrance exam is not comparable across provinces. Combining individual-level administrative data and college student surveys, I estimate a structural model of college and migration choice under quota constraints, together with a measurement model that can recover the nationally comparable distribution of pre-college human capital in each province. I find substantial gaps of pre-college human capital among college applicants across provinces, but these gaps are not well reflected by the admission quotas. A purely merit-based nationwide admission without provincial quotas increases efficiency at the cost of larger regional inequality: it increases college-student sorting and total human capital output during college, but decreases the college opportunity in less developed provinces and the share of college graduates working in those provinces.

“Hard to get: The scarcity of women and the competition for high-income men in urban China” (with David Ong and Junsen Zhang), *Journal of Development Economics*, 144 (2020): 1-19. [\[link\]](#)

Reports of the difficulties of elite women in finding suitable mates have been increasing despite the growing availability and value of men in China. We rationalize this “leftover women” phenomenon within the directed/competitive search framework, which uniquely allows for equilibrium crowding out. Within this framework, we show that the leftover women phenomenon can be the result of women’s aversion to men who have a lower income than themselves (hereafter, ALM) and the long-predicted complementarity between women’s non-market traits (in particular, beauty) and male earnings. For high-income (h-)women, even when high-income (H-)men are more plentiful and richer, the direct effect of the greater number of desirable men can be overwhelmed by the indirect effect of competitive ‘entry’ by low-income (l-)women, particularly, the beautiful. We test for these competitive search effects using online dating field experimental, census, and household survey data. Consistent with the competitive entry of l-women, when sex ratio and H-men’s income increase, the search intensity of beautiful l-women for H-men increases. In response to this competitive entry, plain h-women, who are constrained by their ALM to search predominantly for H-men, also increase the search intensity. However, only their marriage probability decreases. Our evidence is consistent with intra-female competitive search for spouses who can cover the labor market opportunity cost of marriage and childbirth, which increases with a woman’s income.

“Collaboration incentives: Endogenous selection into single and coauthorships by surname initials in economics and management” (with David Ong, Ho Fai Chan and Benno Torgler), *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 147 (2018): 41-57. [\[link\]](#)

Many prior studies suggest that default alphabetical ordering of coauthors in economics confers disproportionate professional advantages on those with an early surname initial because of the greater prominence it gives to the first author. However, these studies do not consider that authors select into coauthorships according to the incentives identified. We develop a model of endogenous selection into single

and coauthorships around the principle that no one wants to be second author when they expect to provide the larger contribution (i.e., are of higher “quality”). We test it with authorship data from economics, with management (which does not use default alphabetical ordering) as a benchmark. We predict for economics that lower quality authors with an early surname initial would be less desirable coauthors, whereas higher quality authors with a late initial would have a lower desire to coauthor. Most desired are early initial authors of high quality, who are therefore advantaged in forming high-quality collaborations. The combined effect predicts citation rank increases with surname initial for single-authored papers and decreases for coauthored. We find both effects for economics when compared to management and absolutely. Our findings indicate that part of the advantage enjoyed by early surname initial authors in economics could be due to the higher ability among them having more incentive-compatible collaborators, rather than merely to greater prominence.

“Marrying up: Trading off spousal income and height” (with Pierre-André Chiappori, David Ong and Junsen Zhang), working paper [\[link\]](#)

Couple’s heights tend to match. However, whether such matching is for the sake of height or the many desirable traits associated with stature (e.g., income) is unclear. We contribute novel experimental and empirical data to identify heterogeneity in preference for mate-height. We recorded clicks on profiles with randomly assigned height and income information on a major online dating website. These clicks reveal that taller men prefer taller women. By contrast, women not only prefer taller men but also higher income men, permitting the calculation of their willingness to pay (WTP) for mate-height. Surprisingly, short women have the highest WTP for mate-height. We confirm this heterogeneity in preference for mate-height by applying the method of Chiappori et al. (2017) for multidimensional matching to data on married couples. Short early mothers drive these results. Our evidence is consistent with short women matching non-assortatively to increase the height of their children.