Yiming (Paul) Li

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Education

The University of Chicago	*Chicago, IL*
PH.D. IN PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS	*June 2018*
MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY	*2012*
City University of Hong Kong	*Hong Kong*
M.S. IN ECONOMICS	*2009*

References

Professor Kerwin Charles	Harris School of Public Policy, the University of Chicago	773-834-8922	kcharles@uchicago.edu
Professor Bruce Meyer	Harris School of Public Policy, the University of Chicago	773-702-2712	meyer1@uchicago.edu
Professor Damon Jones	Harris School of Public Policy, the University of Chicago	773-834-0367	j1s@uchicago.edu

Job Market Paper

Title: Unmarriageable Men? Men's Earnings, Declining Marriage, and Rising Non-Marital Births

Abstract: The decline in marriage and the rise in out-of-wedlock births are among the most important changes in American lives over the last half century. A notable hypothesis to explain both trends, sometimes dubbed as the "unmarriageable men hypothesis," attributes these changes to the disappearance of well-paying industrial jobs for the less-educated men. Exploiting county-level variation in oil-producing and coal-producing areas from the shocks to world oil and coal prices in the 1970s and 1980s, we find that a decrease in men's earnings leads to lower marriage prevalence and lower marital and non-marital fertility rates, confirming the hypothesis. When men's earnings increase, however, marriage outcomes and non-marital births respond differently across regions: while higher earnings lead to higher marriage prevalence and lower non-marital births in coal-producing counties, we find little marriage response and more non-marital births in oil-producing counties during the oil boom, which is inconsistent with the implications of the unmarriageable men hypothesis.

Publication

Disability Benefit Take-Up and Local Labor Market Conditions

REVIEW OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS, WITH KERWIN CHARLES AND MELVIN STEPHENS   *Forthcoming*

Research

Research on Labor and Public Economics
- Applied dimension reduction, instrumental variables, and longitudinal data methods to identify causal links between the depressed labor markets and high take-up of government disability programs
- Exploited natural experiments in energy booms and busts to link jobless men to the declining marriage in the US
- Identified causal links between the rising childcare costs and the stagnating female labor force participation

Research on Health Economics
- Applied fixed effects models to study the effects of Medicaid expansion due to SSI program's federalization
- Explored the effects of occupational licensing on nurse practitioners' wage, employment, and service quality

Research on Statistics and Econometrics
- Applied Ridge, Lasso, and Elastic net to improve approximately sparse high-dimensional instrumental variables
- Examined the statistical bias of Bartik instrumental variables methods under non-random measurement error
- Developed pipelines and scripts to analyze as many as 80m cases on high-performance computing clusters

Research Associate   *Chicago, IL*
NATIONAL OPINION RESEARCH CENTER, PROFESSOR JEFFERY GROGGER
- Studied the relationship between obesity and chronic conditions, as well as the generational shift of the relationship
- Studied the effects of Mexico soda taxes on the prices of sodas and other drinks

Research Assistant   *Chicago, IL*
PROFESSOR KERWIN CHARLES AND PROFESSOR MELVIN STEPHENS
- Studied the effects of local labor market conditions on voter turnout, and examined the causal mechanisms

Research Assistant   *Hong Kong*
DEPT. OF ECONOMICS, CITY UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

PROFESSOR KUI-WAI LI
- Studied the relationship between income inequality, inflation, openness, and political stability

PROFESSOR ISABEL YAN
- Predicted currency crisis with a multi-state nested logit model
- Studied the effects of limiting foreign reserve accumulation

  • Prepared case studies on various topics of corporate governance

Experience

Consultant   *Chicago, IL*
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION   *Jan.–Apr. 2016*
  • Drove policy-making with rigorous statistical analysis, dashboards, and automated analyses
  • Applied statistical models to identify the impacts of health care worker occupational licensing regulations; found that occupational licensing contributed to fewer nurses and pharmacists moving across state borders
  • Automated the analyses, visualization, and reporting using R Markdown and SQL
  • Presented the research and policy suggestions to the department secretary and directors

Instructor   *Chicago, IL*
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO   *Aug. 2014–Aug. 2015*
  • Developed an introductory course on law and economics for students without law or economics background
  • Decomposed abstract legal and economic concepts and clarified nuances with carefully designed examples
  • Earned high evaluations from the students: 4.9/5

Manager, Management Trainee   *Beijing*
CHINA RAILWAY EXPRESS LOGISTICS TECHNOLOGY   *Oct. 2006–Jun. 2008*
  • Reduced 7% stowage waste with optimization algorithms and automated prototypes
  • Developed a constrained optimization algorithm to increase train car space utilization rate
  • Prototyped an application with VBA and Solver to automate daily planning and improve efficiency
  • Designed and led A/B testing in the field; coordinated departments to work together in testing the application

Teaching

2014–15	Law and Economics (undergraduate), Instructor, the University of Chicago, Evaluation 4.9/5	*Chicago, IL*
2017	Program Evaluation (graduate), TA to Prof. Jeff Grogger, the University of Chicago	*Chicago, IL*
2013	Regression Diagnostics (graduate), TA to Prof. Will Manning, the University of Chicago	*Chicago, IL*
2011	Mathematical Statistics I (graduate), TA to Prof. Robert LaLonde, the University of Chicago	*Chicago, IL*
2013–15	Mathematical Statistics II (graduate), TA to Prof. Jeff Grogger, the University of Chicago	*Chicago, IL*
2014	Statistics I (graduate), TA to Prof. Ben Keys, the University of Chicago	*Chicago, IL*
2014–17	Statistics II (graduate), TA to Prof. Bruce Meyer, the University of Chicago	*Chicago, IL*
2009	Microeconomics (undergraduate), TA to Prof. Lawrence Khoo, City University of Hong Kong	*Hong Kong*
2010	Macroeconomics (undergraduate), TA to Prof. Lawrence Khoo, City University of Hong Kong	*Hong Kong*
2009	Econometrics (undergraduate), TA to Prof. Isabel Yan, City University of Hong Kong	*Hong Kong*

Honors

2012–	**Dean's Scholarship for Ph.D. Students**, Harris School, the University of Chicago	*Chicago, IL*
2012–14	**Dean's Scholarship for Master Students**, Harris School, the University of Chicago	*Chicago, IL*
2009	**Department Fellowship**, Department of Economics, City University of Hong Kong	*Hong Kong*
2002–06	**University Honor Student**, Beijing Technology and Business University	*Beijing*
2005	**Best Debater**, Beijing Technology and Business University Debate Competition	*Beijing*
2003	**City of Beijing Honor Student**, 2 out of 700+ candidates	*Beijing*
2003	**Outstanding Student Leader**, in the Battle Against SARS	*Beijing*

Skills

Statistics/ML	Causal Inference, Predictive Modeling, Text Mining, Spatial Analysis, Cluster Analysis
Tools/Languages	R [10+ years], SQL [4+ years], Python [2+ years], Stata [10+ years], Git [4+ years]
	Spark, Hive/Hadoop, Shiny, Tableau, Shell/Bash, Kanban