

Yinan Liu

University of Southern California
Department of Economics
3620 South Vermont Avenue KAP363
Los Angeles, CA 900089

Email: yinanliu@usc.edu
Phone: +1 (615) 481-7819
Homepage: <https://www.ynliu.com/>

Research Interest

Public Economics, Health Economics, Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Applied Econometrics

Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Southern California, expected 2021.

M.A. Economics, Vanderbilt University, 2015.

B.A. Economics, Peking University (CCER), 2013.

B.A. Broadcasting & Television Editing and Directing, Peking University, 2013.

Working Papers

1. The Value of Medicaid Long-Term Care: Evidence from the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. (**Job Market Paper**)

Abstract: Public long-term care (LTC) insurance helps the elderly protect against financial risks, yet its value is hard to measure. This paper provides a novel answer to this question by employing a quasi-experiment from the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) that restricts seniors' Medicaid LTC access. I find that in response to the DRA, single elderly individuals reduced their home equity by \$66.75K (12.1%), while increasing non-LTC consumption by \$10.5K (22.5%). Using these findings and a two-stage budgeting model, I then estimate that seniors' willingness to pay for Medicaid LTC is \$1.2 per dollar of its net resource cost. This evidence shows that the government's intention to limit the provision of Medicaid LTC harms social welfare.

2. Does Independent Recruitment Help Elite Universities Select Better Students in China?

Abstract: Besides the national college entrance exam (CEE), Chinese Universities have adopted an independent recruitment (IR) system to select better-qualified high school graduates. Despite its popularity, the evidence on the effect of IR is inconclusive and limited for the policymakers. I first build a theoretical model to establish that the screening stage of IR generates an additional signal and improves the information received by universities regarding students' ability compared with the CEE alone. Then I confirm that the IR screening process is positively correlated with students' performance in college using data from the 2009 Beijing College Students Panel Survey (BCSPS). To address the concern that IR itself might have a positive effect on students' performance, I use provincial quotas as an instrument variable for IR admission and find no significant impact of IR on students' collegiate performance. The neutrality of IR suggests that it improves the selection process instead of the quality of selectees. Lastly, I simulate the hypothetical admission outcome of the students under CEE alone and find that the distribution of students' characteristics remains stable except that students with minority status receive a better allocation, suggesting that the IR system is prone to promote equity among the elite institutions.

Work in Progress

1. The Impact of Partnership Long-Term Care Program on Adult Children's Labor Force Participation
Abstract: Many elderly individuals who need care turn to their adult children for financial help or informal care support. The financial support mechanism encourages adult children to work more when their parents are more likely to have to pay for LTC. On the other hand, the informal care mechanism creates a negative influence on adult children's labor force participation provided that unpaid informal care often incurs direct costs as well as the loss of wage and work opportunities. These countervailing directions produce unpredictable effects of parents' health conditions on adult children's labor force participation. In this paper, I make use of a private long-term care insurance expansion to explore the impact of LTC insurance on the labor force participation of the next generation. The main finding is that this expansion has negative effects on adult children's labor force participation, suggesting that on average adult children work less when their parents are more likely to have private long-term care insurance. Hence, I conclude that the financial support mechanism plays a major role in this context.
2. Does High-Speed Rail Affect Migration Pattern?
3. School Starting Age Effect and Noncompliance behavior: Evidence from China, with Qin Jiang

Research Experience

Research Assistant to Prof. Richard Easterlin, University of Southern California, 2017-2018

Research Assistant to Prof. Mario Crucini, Vanderbilt University, 2014-2015

Research Assistant to Prof. Miaojie Yu, National School of Development, Peking University, 2013

Teaching Experience

Lecturer, Department of Economics, Vanderbilt University

Math Camp for graduate students, Summer 2014

Teaching Assistant, Owen Business School of Management, Vanderbilt University

Chinese Economy, Prof. Ray Friedman, Fall 2014

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Southern California

Economics of Less Developed Countries, Prof. John Strauss, Spring 2019

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory, Prof. Ergin Bayrak, Fall 2020; Fall 2018; Spring 2017

The World Economy, Prof. Rahul Giri, Fall 2016

Economics of Transition and Development: China, Prof. Rubina Verma, Fall 2016

Conference & Seminar Presentations

2020: USC Development Seminar (Los Angeles, CA); American Society of Health Economists Annual Conference (Canceled due to COVID-19)

2019: Western Economic Association International (San Francisco, CA)

2018: Western Economic Association International (Vancouver, CAN)

Fellowships and Awards

Summer Research Award, University of Southern California, 2020
Summer Research Award, University of Southern California, 2019
Summer Research Award, University of Southern California, 2018
Dornsife Graduate Merit Fellowship, University of Southern California, 2015-present
Outstanding Student of GPED, Vanderbilt University, 2015

Skill

Computer Skills: Stata, Matlab, GAUSS, C++, SAS, R, LaTeX
Languages: Chinese(native), English(fluent)

References

John Strauss (Advisor)
Professor of Economics
University of Southern California
Phone: +1 (213) 740-7698
Email: jstrauss@usc.edu

Cheng Hsiao
Professor of Economics
University of Southern California
Phone: +1 (213) 740-2103
Email: chsiao@usc.edu

Alice Chen
Associate Professor of Public Policy
University of Southern California
Phone: +1 (213) 821-1763
Email: alicec@price.usc.edu

Last updated: December 1, 2020