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Personal Information
Gender: Male
Citizenship: China
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Graduate Studies:
University of Pennsylvania, 2012 to present
Thesis Title: "*Distributional Effects of Local Minimum Wage Hikes: A Spatial Job Search Approach*"
Expected Completion Date: May 2018

Thesis Committee and References:

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Undergraduate Studies:
B.S/B.A., Mathematics/Finance, Renmin University of China, Beijing, China, 2010

Masters Level Work:
M.A., Economics, Hanqing Institute, Renmin University of China, Beijing, 2013

Teaching and Research Fields:
Primary fields: Labor Economics, Family Economics, Psychology Economics
Secondary fields: Public Economics, Education Economics

Teaching Experience:

Summer, 2014	Instruction to Econometrics, Course Instructor
Fall, 2016	Econometrics III (Graduate), T.A. for Prof. Petra Todd and Prof. Benjamin Connault
Fall, 2016	Health Economics, T.A. for Prof. Juan Pablo Atal
Spring, 2016	Social Choice, T.A. for Prof. Sangmok Lee
Fall, 2015	Public Finance, T.A. for Prof. Uriel Spiegel
Fall, 2014	Instruction to Econometrics, T.A. for Prof. Xu Cheng
Spring, 2014	Statistics for Economists, T.A. for Prof. Francis Ditraglia

Fellowships, Award and Grants:

2012-2017	Graduate Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
2015-2016	TRIO Pilot Award – Population Studies Center, University of Pennsylvania
2014-2016	SAS Research Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania

Research Papers:

"**Distributional Effects of Local Minimum Wage Hikes: A Spatial Job Search Approach**"
(Job Market Paper)

Abstract: This paper develops and estimates a spatial general equilibrium job search model to study the effects of local and universal (federal) minimum wage policies. In the model, firms post vacancies in multiple locations. Workers, who are heterogeneous in terms of location and education types, engage in random search and can migrate or commute in response to job offers. I estimate the model by combining multiple databases including the American Community Survey (ACS) and Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI). The estimated model is used to analyze how minimum wage policies affect employment, wages, job postings, vacancies, migration/commuting, and welfare. Empirical results show that minimum wage increases in local county lead to an exit of low type (education < 12 years) workers and an influx of high type workers (education ≥ 12 years), which generates negative externalities for workers in neighboring areas. I use the model to simulate the effects of a range of minimum wages. Minimum wage increases up to $14/hour increase the welfare of high type workers but lower welfare of low type workers, expanding inequality. Increases in excess of $14/hour decrease welfare for all workers. I further evaluate two counterfactual policies: restricting labor mobility and preempting local minimum wage laws. For a range of minimum wages, both policies have negative impacts on the welfare of high type workers, but beneficial effects for low type workers.

"**A Dynamic Model of Personality, Schooling, and Occupational Choice**", with Petra Todd, Revision Requested, ***Quantitative Economics***

Abstract: This paper develops a dynamic discrete choice model of schooling and occupational choices that incorporates time-varying personality traits, as measured by the so-called "Big Five" traits. The model is estimated using the Household Income and Labor Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) longitudinal dataset from Australia. Personality traits are found to play a critical role in explaining education and occupational choices over the lifecycle. The traits evolve during young adult years but stabilize in the mid-30s. Results show that individuals with a comparative advantage in schooling and white-collar work have, on average, higher cognitive skills and higher personality traits, in all five dimensions. The estimated model is used to evaluate two education policies: compulsory senior secondary school and a 50% college subsidy. Both policies are found to be effective in increasing educational attainment, but the compulsory schooling policy provides greater benefits to lower socioeconomic groups. Allowing personality traits to evolve with age and with years of schooling proves to be important in capturing policy response heterogeneity.

Publications:

"Personality Traits, Intra-household Allocation and the Gender Wage Gap", with Christopher Flinn and Petra Todd**, Accepted, European Economic Review**

Abstract: A model of how personality traits affect household time and resource allocation decisions and wages is developed and estimated. In the model, households choose between two behavioral modes: cooperative or noncooperative. Spouses receive wage offers and allocate time to supply labor market hours and to produce a public good. Personality traits, measured by the so-called "Big Five" traits, can affect household bargaining weights and wage offers. Model parameters are estimated by Simulated Method of Moments using the Household Income and Labor Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) data. Personality traits are found to be important determinants of household bargaining weights and of wage offers and to have substantial implications for understanding the sources of gender wage disparities.

"Welfare Reform and Children's Early Cognitive Development", with Hau Chyi and Orgul Demet Ozturk, **Contemporary Economic Policy 32, no. 4 (2014): 729-751.**

Abstract: In this paper, we use a dynamic structural model to measure the effects of (1) single mothers' work and welfare use decisions and (2) welfare reform initiatives on the early cognitive development of the children of the NLSY79 mothers. We use PIAT-Math scores as a measure of attainment and show that both the mothers' work and welfare use benefit children on average. Our simulation of a policy that combines a time limit with work requirement reduces the use of welfare and increases employment significantly. These changes in turn significantly increase children's cognitive attainment. This implies that the welfare reform was not only successful in achieving its stated goals, but was also beneficial to welfare children's outcomes. In another policy simulation, we show that increasing work incentives for welfare population by exempting labor income from welfare tax can be a very successful policy with some additional benefits for children's outcomes. Finally, a counterfactual with an extended maternal leave policy significantly reduces employment and has negative, though economically insignificant, impact on cognitive outcomes.

Professional Activities:

Service

Referee for *Macroeconomic Dynamics (2)*

Selected presentations

2017	SEHO 1st Annual Meeting, WEAI 92nd Annual Conference, Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society, China Meeting of the Econometric Society
2016	18th ZEW Summer Workshop
2015	10th Annual Economic Graduate Student Conference, Inaugural RES Symposium of Junior Researchers
2011	The 16th World Congress of International Economic Association, Tsinghua Workshop in Macroeconomics

Computer skills:

Matlab, Fortran (OpenMP, MPI), R, Stata

Language skills:

English (fluent), Chinese (native)