

DONGYANG HE

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EDUCATION

Pennsylvania State University | Ph.D. Candidate in Economics (STEM) 2025 (expected)
• Fields: Spatial Economics, Applied Econometrics, Applied Microeconomics
Pennsylvania State University | M.A. in Economics, B.S. in Mathematics (Honors) 2019

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Urban Economics, Household Economics, International Trade

WORKING PAPERS

Distributional Effects of Exclusionary Zoning Policies 2023
Job Market Paper
This paper examines the effects of exclusionary zoning policies, specifically density and height regulations, on the supply of heterogeneous housing units and their subsequent implications for different income groups. Using a comprehensive dataset on U.S. housing, I document a robust and pervasive pattern: smaller housing units tend to exhibit higher density and greater building height. This pattern suggests that exclusionary zoning policies may systematically reduce the supply of smaller housing units, disproportionately affecting lower-income households who tend to occupy these units. I develop a theoretical housing production model with endogenous housing density and height to illustrate the impact of density and height regulations on housing production across different sizes. To quantify the differential welfare implications across income levels, I embed this housing model into a spatial urban framework with heterogeneous income groups, focusing on the Greater Boston region.

Migration and Proximity Preference in Fertility Decision 2021
This paper investigates the impact of spatial distance from migrants' place of origin on fertility and mobility outcomes. Using U.S. survey data, I first show a discernible decrease in fertility likelihood with increasing distances from one's hometown, pointing to a "proximity preference" for fertility. The absence of familial support systems at greater distances and unfamiliar surroundings may dissuade long-distance migrants from childbearing. To assess the extent to which this proximity preference has impacted fertility and mobility outcomes, I introduce a spatial equilibrium model with endogenous fertility decisions. My counterfactual experiments underline the considerable influence of this proximity preference on both mobility and fertility patterns. Notably, skilled workers exhibit a more pronounced proximity preference in fertility limiting their fertility and mobility outcomes. My analysis further estimates that shifts in migration patterns can explain approximately 5% of the changes in fertility rates since 2000.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

RA for Prof. Michael Gechter SU 2022, SU 2018
Short-Term Consultant, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development SP 2019
RA for Prof. Nick Tsivanidis FA 2018
Internship at China Construction Bank SU 2017
Internship at Guoyuan Securities, China SU 2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Penn State University
Intermediate Microeconomics SU 2023
International Economics SU 2021
Teaching Assistant, Penn State University
Intermediate Macroeconomics SP 2023 - FA 2023

Labor Economics and Labor Markets
Monetary Theory and Policy
Classical Analysis
Numerical Analysis

SP 2021 - FA 2022
FA 2020
SP 2018
SP 2018, FA 2017

HONORS AND AWARDS

Department of Economics Graduate Assistantship, Penn State	2020 - Present
Schreyer Scholar, Penn State	2019
Phi Beta Kappa	2019
Bates White Research Funding	2018
Mathematics Advanced Study Semesters Fellowship	2017

MODELING

Python, R, Stata, Matlab, ArcGIS, Shell, Git

REFERENCES

Stephen Yeaple (Chair)
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Fernando Parro
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