

Faqiang Li

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Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Pennsylvania State University, Expected: May 2024

Committee: Kala Krishna (Chair), James Tybout, Mark Roberts, Jingting Fan, John Singleton (Rochester)

M.A. in Economics, Renmin University of China, 2018

B.A. in Economics (double Mathematics), Sun Yat-sen University, 2015

Student Exchange, UC San Diego, 2016-2017; UC Berkeley, 2014

Fields of Specialization

Primary Interests: Empirical Industrial Organization, Public Economics

Secondary Interests: Development, Economics of Education

Focus Topics: Industrial Policy, Public Policy, Households in Developing Economy

Research Papers

Job Market Paper

[“Targeted Incentives for Charter Schools to Expand Capacity: a Dynamic Analysis”](#)

Presentation (including scheduled): Peking U, Tsinghua U, Renmin U, SHUFE, Penn State, U Rochester, Duke Lunch, ESM-LA, RES, UEA-NA, EARIE, APIOS, HKEA, SEA, AEF, APPAM, AEDE, CIREQ, MEA

Abstract: The central question of the policy debate on public education is how to get more for less. Charter schools have been a tool in this arena to pressure traditional public schools to improve or lose students to them. Moreover, charter schools designated as “High-performing” have recently been allowed to expand capacity at will in Florida, while the remainder need to request for such permission. I leverage this policy reform and evaluate its influence on education access and quality. I develop and estimate a tractable dynamic model that highlights both the (costly) adjustment of schools’ capacity and their “effort” to improve quality, as well as their dynamic response to competitive pressure. I find evidence that obtaining “High-performing” designation reduces adjustment costs of capacity, which is valuable to charter schools. More importantly, such charter schools exert pressure on traditional public schools nearby. Through simulation exercises, I show that targeting value-added, not just performance level, would improve the mean performance of the entire education sector and enhance equity of access.

Working Papers & Work in Progress

1. **[“Retail Globalization, Households’ Diet, and the Mexico Sin-Food Taxes”](#)**, with Emilio Gutierrez, Beata Javorick, Wolfgang Keller, Ricardo Miranda, Kensuke Teshima, James Tybout

Abstract: We study the impact of retail globalization on calorie consumption under alternative policy regimes. Specifically, using household-level surveys and home scanner data, we first examine the effects of Walmart openings in Mexican cities on household consumption patterns. In doing so, we document an eight percent permanent increase in households’ purchased calories that coincides with

the timing of Walmart openings, and we show that this increase traces to greater consumption of unhealthy foods. Next, we show that when Mexico introduced a tax on highly caloric foods in 2014, caloric intake fell among Walmart shoppers, who substituted for cheaper and healthier food options. Finally, building on Thomassen et al. (American Economic Review, 2017), we estimate a structural model of households' choices concerning the stores they visit and the goods they consume. This model provides a basis for counterfactual analyses of calorie taxes (inter alia), and it allows us to link changes in caloric intake among different types of households to Walmart openings.

2. [“Self-Employment and Credit Constraints of Indian Households”](#), with Carlos Salamanca
3. “Non-cognitive Skills and Learning Outcomes in Post-Disaster Recovery”, with Esma Ozer
4. “Household Consumption, Investment, and Bank Expansion: Micro-level Evidence from India”, with Ande Shen

Publications

1. Zhixin Dai, Yixin Chen, Faqiang Li, [“The Use of Randomized Natural Field Experiment Method in Tax Compliance Studies”](#), *Journal of Renmin University of China*, 2020, 34(4): 69-78. (In Chinese)

Seminar and Conference

(*scheduled)

2024 Duke Labor Lunch Student Seminar

2023 Peking University, INSE • Tsinghua University, SEM • Renmin University of China, School of Finance • Peking University, Institute of Economics of Education • Shanghai University of Finance and Economics • PSU Applied Micro Seminar • U Rochester Applied Economics Workshop • Latin American Meeting of the Econometric Society • Urban Economic Association North America • European Association for Research in Industrial Economics • Asia-Pacific Industrial Organization Society • Hong Kong Economic Association Biennial Conference • Southern Economic Association • Association of Education Finance and Policy (poster) • CIREQ PhD Students' Conference • Midwest Economics Association • Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management • Economics of Education Association (“AEDE”) • 2× PSU Student Brownbag (Applied Micro, Trade and Development)

2020-2022 6× PSU Student Brownbag (IO, Trade and Development, Applied Micro)

Research and Teaching Experience

Pennsylvania State University

Research Assistant to James Tybout, 2020–

Teaching Assistant to Peter Newberry (Sport Economics) and Robert Marshall (Collusion Economics), 2019–2021

Renmin University of China

Research Assistant in Behavioral Tax Research Center, State Admin. of Taxation to Zhixin Dai, 2017–2018

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

RGSO Dissertation Competition Award (\$1500), PSU, 2023

Travel Grants (\$6400): 3× Seminar and Conference Travel Grant by Prof. John Singleton (U Rochester), LAM-ES, and CIREQ, 2× International Graduate Student Travel Grant Competition Award, 2× Individual Travel Grants by the University Park Allocation Committee) 2023

Sponsored AliResearch “Huoshui” Young Academics Project (Title: The Dynamics of Taobao Village Industry Chain and Integration, joint with Professor Jingting Fan), Alibaba Group, 2020

Graduate Assistantship, PSU, 2018-2024

Principal’s Fellowship (for UC San Diego Student Exchange), RUC, 2016

Graduate Student with Distinction, RUC, 2017

Professional Services and Activities

Discussant, APPAM(Area: Public and Non-Profit Mgmt. and Finance, Session: Performance Management)

Attendee, NBER Summer Institute Industrial Organization Workshop, 2023, Urban Economic Association Summer School 2023, Florida Charter School Conference, 2022

Organizer, Economics of Education Virtual Seminar Series and EdEcon Reading Group in PSU, 2020-2021

Skills

Economics: Structural Estimation, Quantitative Economic Modelling, Causal Inference

Programming: Cluster Computing, MATLAB, STATA, \LaTeX , ArcGis, Python

Languages: Chinese (native), English (fluent)

Personal

李法强 (Name in Chinese); Citizen of China

References

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The University of Rochester
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