

Mingyi Li

Homepage

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Shanghai, China

Research Interests

Urban Economics, Labor Economics, Industrial Organization

Education

Xiamen University

2020 – 2023

M.A. in Economics (GPA 3.84)

Xiamen, Fujian, China

Master's Thesis, "Impacts of Thermal Power Plants on Population Migration-An Analysis Based on the Spatial Equilibrium Model"

Southwestern University of Finance and Economics

2016 – 2020

B.A. in Economics (GPA 3.9)

Chengdu, Sichuan, China

Work in Progress

"Consumer Heterogeneity and the Stimulus Effect of Digital Coupons" with Ying Chen, Jiaming Mao, and Yue Wang

Abstract: This paper studies the stimulus effect of a large scale digital coupon program implemented in Beijing during the Covid-19 pandemic. Our analysis based on quantile regression uncovers significant variation in responses among those who obtained digital coupons. Using the causal forest approach, we estimate the high-dimensional heterogeneity in consumption responses and identify the key design features that drive spending. Finally, we examine the spatial distribution of the program's stimulus effects and conduct counterfactual analyses to assess the outcomes of alternative programs. Through these empirical investigations, our research sheds light on the dynamics of the digital coupon program and provides valuable insights for policymakers seeking to optimize economic stimulus measures.

"Can Power Plants Light up the Economy? Evidence From China" with Ying Chen

Abstract: In emerging market countries, power shortage is a major obstacle to economic progress. Coal-fired thermal power plants are commonly used as the primary power source due to their affordability and reliable power supply. However, these plants also contribute to severe air pollution and pose a threat to public health. This paper utilizes a Rosen-Roback style spatial equilibrium framework and an instrumental variable approach to examine the impact and underlying mechanisms of coal-fired thermal power plants on local labor markets. Our findings indicate that these power plants enhance local firm productivity, attracting an influx of population. However, they also worsen air pollution, leading to an outflow of population. Notably, at the county level, the inflow of population on average exceeds the outflow. This study highlights the trade-offs faced by emerging economies as they strive to balance the need for a stable electricity supply with concerns about air quality.

Research Experience

Research Assistant for Prof. Ying Chen, XMU

12, 2021 – 06, 2023

- Conducted data cleaning, data visualization, and advanced regression analysis
- Participated in weekly seminars, presenting and discussing frontier research papers

Project Assistant for Prof. Jiong Zhu, XMU

10, 2021 – 02, 2022

- Analyzed unstructured datasets using NLP techniques for econometrics research

Research Assistant for Prof. Yilin Zhang, SWUFE

06, 2018 – 06, 2020

- Contributed to literature review and academic writing
- Assisted in manuscripts review and editing

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Urban Economics (undergraduate)

09, 2021 – 01, 2022

- Assisted in course preparation and grading
- Provided after-class and office hours support to students

Work Experience

Product Manager, Shanghai Pudong Development Bank Headquarter

Shanghai, China

- Developed data analysis programs
- Facilitated daily communication with leadership and team members

Relevant Coursework

Economics: Advanced Microeconomics I (Rank 1) & II, Advanced Macroeconomics I (A) & II (Top 1%), Advanced Econometrics I (A) & II (Top 5%), Urban Economics (Rank 1), Labor Economics, Microeconometrics and Application (A+)

Mathematics: Mathematical Economics (top 2%), Advanced Mathematics I (A+) & II, Probability Theory (A+), Advanced Algebra, Data Structure

Note: Courses taken at the master's level are highlighted in bold.

Awards & Honors

National Scholarship, XMU

2021

Teaching Assistant Award, XMU

2021

University Fellowships, SWUFE

2016–2019

Languages & Skills

Languages: English (fluent) and Mandarin (native)

Computer Languages: Python, R, SQL, Linux, Git

Software: STATA, ArcGIS, L^AT_EX

References

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Wang Yanan Institute
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