Alison X. Pei

201 Science Drive
Box 90315
Durham, NC 27708

☏ : (607)-262-2857
✉ : xp25@duke.edu
🐦 : @Alison_Pei

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics & Public Policy, Duke University	Expected 2024
M.S. in Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University	2019
B.A. in Economics, Nankai University	2017

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Primary Fields: Labor Economics, Industrial Organization
Secondary Field: Entrepreneurship

REFERENCES

Matthew S. Johnson (co–chair)
Sanford School of Public Policy
Duke University
matthew.johnson@duke.edu ⊠

Daniel Yi Xu (co–chair)
Department of Economics
Duke University
yi.xu@duke.edu ⊠

WORKING PAPERS

"Monopsony in the High–Skilled Foreign Labor Market – Evidence from H–1B Labor Market" with Seohee Kim.

This paper assesses the extent of monopsony in the H–1B labor market through the lens of employment concentration and its effect on H–1B workers' wages. Using micro-level H–1B petition data from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigrant Services (USCIS), we calculate the H–1B employment concentration using Herfindahl–Hirschman Index (HHI) under various labor market definitions from 2010 to 2019. We find 86% of the H–1B labor markets are highly concentrated according to the Department of Justice guideline. We then examine the causal effect of high employment concentration on H–1B workers' wages by exploiting the random variations generated by a lottery system implemented for over-the-cap H1-B applications. We find that larger firms disproportionately get more new workers from the exogenous increase in the market-level lottery win rate. These unbalanced distributions of new H–1B workers increase HHI, which in turn, reduces the H–1B workers' wages in the corresponding labor market. These local average treatment effects are the largest for workers at the top 10 H–1B employers in tech industries.

WORK IN PROGRESS

"The Enforceability of Noncompete Agreements and Innovation: Evidence from State Law Changes," with Matthew Johnson and Michael Lipsitz.

"OSHA Inspections, Productivity, and Management,"With Nicholas Bloom, David Levine and Matthew Johnson.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Matthew S. Johnson Special Sworn Status, U.S. Census Bureau.	2021 − Present
Research Assistant to Kaushik Basu	2018 − 2019
Research Assistant to Nancy Chau	2017 − 2018

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Duke University
    PUBPOL 801: Microeconomics in Public Policy (MPP)   Fall 2020
       Teaching Assistant

Cornell University
    AEM 1200 Introduction to Business Management (UG)   Summer 2019
       Section Lecturer & Teaching Assistant

    ECON 1110 Introductory Microeconomics (UG)   Spring 2019
       Section Lecturer & Teaching Assistant

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Competitive Summer Research Fellowship for Students in Third Year and Beyond	2022
Sanford School of Public Policy Graduate Student Travel Grant Award	2021
Duke University Graduate Fellowship	2019–Present
Cornell University Teaching Assistant Fellowship	2019
Erasmus Exchange Program Fellowship, China Scholarship Council	2017
First Prize, Comprehensive Scholarship of Nankai University	2016 − 2017

PRESENTATIONS

APPAM Fall Research Conference (scheduled)	2022
NBER Summer Institute Entrepreneurship Research Bootcamp	2022
Western Economics Association Annual Conference	2022
Midwestern Economics Association Annual Conference	2022
Graduate Student Seminar in Industrial Organization – Department of Economics, Duke University	2022
CSWEP Mentoring Workshop – 2021 Southern Economics Association Annual Conference	2021
Graduate Student Seminar in Labor Economics – Department of Economics, Duke University	2020 – 2022
Graduate Research Workshop – Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University	2020 – 2022
Development Policy Research Unit (DPRU) Workshop – University of Cape Town	2019

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

School and Departmental Service

Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Duke University	2020 − 2021
Women in Economics, Duke University	2020 − Present

Professional Association Memberships
    Southern Economics Association
    Eastern Economics Association
    Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)