Amy Kim

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EDUCATION

Princeton University, Princeton	**2021—present**
Ph.D. Economics	
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge	**2017– 2021**
B.S. Computer Science & Mathematics; Economics	

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to **Adam Kapor,** Princeton University	**2022**
Research Assistant to **Jonathan Gruber,** MIT	**2018– 2021**
Research Intern with **Nathaniel Hendren,** Opportunity Insights	**2021**
Research Fellow at the **Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies,** D.C.	**2020**
Economic Research Intern at the **Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco**	**2019**

MAJOR HONORS, AWARDS & GRANTS

Program for Research on Inequality Grant Recipient	**2023**
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship	**2021– present**
Louis A. Simpson *60 P90 Graduate Fellowship	**2022**
Phi Beta Kappa Society Inductee	**2021**

ONGOING & PAST RESEARCH

The Chinese Head Tax and Chinese Immigration to Canada – *ongoing*

In 1885, the Canadian government implemented a flat 'head tax' on every Chinese immigrant to Canada, in an effort to limit Chinese immigration. While initially $50, by 1903 the tax had increased to $500, equivalent to approximately 17,000 USD today, and nearly double the annual salary of the average Chinese immigrant. In this paper, I find that the Head Tax significantly reduced the inflow of Chinese immigrants to Canada, particularly after 1903 when the tax was at its peak. I also find evidence that Chinese immigrants in later years of the Head Tax were less likely to be laborers and more likely to be literate in English, which is suggestive of a 'selection effect' of the higher Head Tax, in which the Head Tax limited the pool of immigrants to only those with higher skill and more resources. I also find, however, that Chinese immigrants in later years of the Head Tax had lower rates of home ownership, indicative of a direct wealth effect of the Head Tax that outweighed the selection effect. A similar analysis on Chinese immigrants to the US during the same time period shows that Chinese immigrants to the US in later years of the Head Tax were more likely to be laborers, suggestive of some low-skilled immigrants substituting towards the US as an immigration destination as the tax increased. Together, my results show that the Chinese Head Tax of 1885 had significant effects on Chinese immigration to North America, a finding that could have implications for the heterogeneous costs of immigration today.

The Role of Married Women in Teachers' Wages: Evidence from the Lifting of Marriage Bars with Carolyn Tsao – *ongoing*

Major-Specific Admissions Restrictions and Diversity in Higher Education – *ongoing*

In this project, I will study the effects of major-specific admissions restrictions (MSARs), which impose additional admissions requirements on students applying to highly competitive majors (often including Engineering, and Business, among others), at higher education institutions. Despite the prevalence of these policies across the US, their effects on student behavior and student outcomes are not well understood. At the application margin, depending on how students perceive and respond to MSARs, these policies could induce some marginal students not to apply to competitive majors, limiting diversity in lucrative fields. On the flip side, these policies may also induce some marginal students not to apply to more competitive institutions, where MSARs are often proportionally more restrictive, limiting diversity at flagship schools. I will use Texas administrative data to evaluate these two potential mechanisms through which MSARs may affect application-sending and enrollment among high school students, and how this in turn affects field and institutional diversity. Understanding the effects of MSARs, particularly in the context of other institution-wide policies, will inform policymakers and institutions when deciding whether MSARs are the appropriate tool to restrict major-specific enrollment.

Immigration Policy and Second-Generation Immigrant Outcomes: Comparing the US and Canada – *ongoing*

Redlining and Black Voter Turnout: The Modern Legacy of Historical Discrimination and Racist Policies – *Published in Columbia Economic Review, Spring 2021*

In the 1930s, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) created a series of maps categorizing neighborhoods into groups based on their perceived lending risk. I test the relationship between these map ratings and present-day voter turnout among Black and White voters. Using a regression discontinuity design, I first compare cities just below the population cutoff for the creation of the HOLC maps to cities just above the cutoff, based on 1930 and 2016 characteristics. At the neighborhood level, I find that higher HOLC grades are associated with higher White voter turnout, but not with higher Black voter turnout. Furthermore, when I use a lasso regression model to impute HOLC grades for both redlined and non-redlined neighborhoods, I find that this difference in the relationship between predicted HOLC grade and voter turnout for Black and White voters is only present in high-density neighborhoods that were not designated as redlined. This implies a significant relationship between the HOLC maps and the difference in Black and White voter turnout across neighborhoods.

OTHER

Proficient in Python, Stata, R, Matlab, Julia
Native Speaker of English; **Fluent in** Korean
Citizen of Canada and USA