

Brendan Houg

Contact Information

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Summary

Applied Economist/Data Analyst with excellent communication and advanced statistical analysis skills. Recently completed Ph.D. Economics of Education from the University of Melbourne, where I also gained 9 years of experience at the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research. Earlier, I began my career at the Australian competition regulator.

Education

Ph.D. Economics of Education	University of Melbourne (2018)
B. Commerce / B. Software Engineering	University of Melbourne (2005)

Thesis

My thesis asks whether elite high schools, which admit students based on academic performance, improve their students' university entrance results. I estimate the selective school effect for an Australian state using propensity score matching and fuzzy regression discontinuity approaches. Refer to working paper [Houg and Ryan \(2018\)](#), which presents the main chapter of the [thesis](#).

Technical Skills

Proficient in R, Stata, Python, SQL, command-line tools, etc. See for example [R version](#) of Microsoft's TrueSkill algorithm.

Professional Experience

Jan 2009 - Aug 2018	Research Officer Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic & Social Research University of Melbourne
Feb 2006 - July 2008	Graduate/Project Officer Mergers & Acquisitions Branch Australian Competition & Consumer Commission

Journal Articles

Renzaho, A., Houn, B., Oldroyd, J., Nicholson, J., D'Esposito, F. and Oldenburg, B., (2014). Stressful Life Events and the Onset of Chronic Diseases among Australian Adults: Findings from a Longitudinal Survey, *European Journal of Public Health*, 24(1), 57-62.

Renzaho, A., Wooden, M., and Houn, B., (2010). Associations between Body Mass Index and Health Related Quality of Life among Australian Adults. *Quality of Life Research* 19(4), 515-520.

Research Reports/Working Papers

Houn, B. and Ryan, C., (2018). Achievement Gains from Attendance at Selective High Schools, [Melbourne Institute Working Paper 08/18](#).

Houn, B. The Effect of Inferred Changes in Rank on Academic Achievement.

Houn, B. and Justman, M., (2016)[#]. Student and Staff Attitudes and School Performance, [Melbourne Institute Working Paper 26/16](#).

Houn, B. and Justman, M., (2014). NAPLAN Scores as Predictors of Access to Higher Education in Victoria, [Melbourne Institute Working Paper 22/14](#).

Houn, B. and Justman, M., (2013). Comparing Least-Squares Value-Added Analysis and Student Percentile Analysis for Evaluating Student Progress and Estimating School Effects, [Melbourne Institute Working Paper 07/13](#).

Conference Presentations

Econometric Society of Australasia Meeting (ESAM),
Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand, 1-4 July 2018.

Australian Conference of Economists (ACE), Australian National University,
Canberra, Australia, 10-13 July 2018.

The 28th PhD Conference in Economics and Business, University of Queensland,
Brisbane, Australia, 11-13 November 2015.

North American Meetings for Regional Science Association International (RSAI),
Atlanta, Georgia, USA, 13-16 November 2013.

[#] Presented at the Victorian Department of Education and Training.

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Brendan Houn