

Brendan Houg

Contact Information

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Summary

I am an applied economist with a background in public policy research. I have 9 years of experience working at an economics and social policy research institute in the University of Melbourne, where I also completed a PhD in Economics part-time. Earlier, I began my career at the Australian competition regulator.

Education

Ph.D., Economics of Education* (part-time) University of Melbourne (exp. 2018)
B. Commerce / B. Software Engineering University of Melbourne (2005)

* Thesis submitted March 2018. Transferred from Master of Economics (2009-) in 2010.

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 anonymized Australian state using propensity score matching and fuzzy regression discontinuity approaches.

Technical Skills

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

Professional Experience

Jan 2009 - Present 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., Houg, 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 Houg, 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

Houg, B. and Ryan, C*. Achievement Gains from Attendance at Selective High Schools.

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

Houg, B*. Unemployment Duration and Skill-based Local Labour Markets.

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

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

Houg, 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.

* Forthcoming works-in-progress. [#] Presented at the Victorian Department of Education and Training. [^] Upcoming conferences.

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