

Brendan Houg

Contact Information

Mobile: +61 433 507 750
Skype: brendan3001

Email: brendan.houg@gmail.com
Web: [google scholar](#), [github](#), [resume](#)

Summary

Applied Economist with background in public policy research. 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](#).

Buddelmeyer, H., Houn, B., Kalb, G., and Scutella, R., A New Household Expenditure Measure as an alternative to the Henderson Poverty Line. Work commissioned by members of the Risk Managers Round Table, 2011.

Polidano, C. and Vu, H.*, (2011). To gain, retain and retrain: the role of post-school education for people with a disability, NCVER.

Wilkins, R., Warren, D., Hahn, M., and Houn, B., (2011). Families, Incomes and Jobs: A Statistical Report on Waves 1 to 8 of the HILDA Survey. Report commissioned by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Volume 6.

Kalb, G., Jeon, S., and Houn, B., (2010). The Effects of Childcare on Child Development. Research commissioned by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Wilkins, R., Hahn, M., and Houn, B., (2009). Families, Incomes and Jobs: A Statistical Report on Waves 1 to 7 of the HILDA Survey. Report commissioned by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Volume 5.

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

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.

Last updated: October 3, 2018

Brendan Hough