

**CHIEN-TZU CHENG**  
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**BROWN UNIVERSITY**

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**Office Contact Information**

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**Personal Information:** Female, Taiwanese Citizen

**Undergraduate Studies:**

B.A., Public Finance- Japanese Literature, National Chengchi University, Taiwan, 2013

**Graduate Studies:**

M.A., Economics, Brown University, 2018

M.A., Public Finance, National Chengchi University, Taiwan, 2015

Brown University, 2017 to present

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics

Thesis Title: “*Essays in Health Economics*”

Expected Completion Date: May 2023

**References:**

Professor Anna Aizer	Professor Andrew Foster
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**Teaching and Research Fields:**

Primary fields: Health Economics, Labor Economics

Secondary fields: Children and Families, Economics of Population

**Professional Activities:**

2022	<i>Presentations:</i> American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) Conference, Applied Micro Lunch Seminar (Brown), Applied Young Economist Webinar (Monash University), Data Science Initiative Fair (Brown), Guttmacher Institute Research Brownbag, Population Association of America (PAA) Conference
2021-present	Trainee, Population Studies and Training Center (PSTC), Brown University

## **Research Papers:**

### ***“The Impact of Home Pregnancy Testing on Fertility and Women's Later-Life Outcomes”*** (Job Market Paper)

Home pregnancy tests became available in US drugstores in 1977. Using county-level drugstore accessibility to approximate test availability, I examine its impacts on fertility rates, early prenatal care, and female later life outcomes. Using an event-study design, I document significant trend breaks in fertility rates after 1977 among women who had access to drugstores, with the strongest effects for those aged 15-29. The changes in fertility are concentrated among those with access to abortion services. By delaying childbirth, the likelihood of obtaining college degrees and participating in the labor market increased among women in areas with access to abortion providers and drugstores.

### ***“The Benefits of Prenatal Care: Evidence from the SARS Epidemic in Taiwan”*** (with Shin-Yi Chou, Hsien-Ming Lien)

The 2003 SARS epidemic caused widespread panic in Taiwan and sharply declined prenatal care utilization by 20%. Exploiting this exogenous shock, this paper adopts social learning effects to instrument the reduction in prenatal care visits with the average visits in one's peer group. Using administrative data, we find that prenatal care significantly decreased low birth weight, preterm birth, and infant mortality. The effects on infant mortality only persist among the firstborn, suggesting that information is especially important for first-time mothers. However, we find no effect on maternal complications during delivery.

### ***“Hospital Response to Financial Incentives: Evidence from Taiwan”***

This paper studies a plausibly exogenous policy change in the Taiwanese universal healthcare system and tests hospital responses to financial incentives. In an event study, I explore a 30% increase in the diagnostic fee bonuses of night emergency department admissions. Using administrative data, I find evidence of manipulation: night admission shares increased by 50% among the least urgent but not among the most urgent patients. This increase implies that hospitals delayed specific triage categories until night bonus windows for more profits. However, this policy made little improvements in care provision and health outcomes.

## **Research Papers in Progress:**

### ***“The Long-Term Impact of Healthcare Accessibility in Middle Childhood: Evidence from Medicaid Expansion in the 1990s”*** (with Assaf Kott)

This project investigates the long-term impact of healthcare accessibility during childhood. We look at Medicaid's expansion in the 1990s and apply a regression discontinuity (RD) design exploiting the fact that expansion in Medicaid eligibility rules in 1991 only applied to children born after September 30, 1983. We focus on educational attainment, socioeconomic status, and labor market outcomes between ages 30 and 40.

### ***“Why are Women Not Hiring Women? A Non-Bayesian Social Learning Experiment”*** (with Ruoyi Alex Zhou)

Over the past two decades, an increasing number of countries have established gender quotas to improve female representation in leadership positions. However, studies find that the policy has had zero or even a negative effect on women's employment or promotion opportunities in lower positions. We develop an experiment to unbundle possible mechanisms that have led to such phenomena: 1) female hirers not advocating for women in male-dominated environments; 2) male hirers being less likely to advocate for women when female hirers are present; 3) the opinions of female hirers not being valued. We will be testing these mechanisms in a hiring experiment based on a non-Bayesian update of the opinion formation model.

**Teaching Experience:**

Summer, 2019	Economia, Summer@Brown Program, Teaching Assistant
Summer, 2018	Econometrics: Statistical Tools to Understand Economic Data, Summer@Brown Program, Teaching Assistant
2013-2015	Principle of Economics (in English), National Chengchi University, Teaching Assistant to Professor Wen-Chieh Wu
Fall, 2014	Econometrics (Graduate Level), National Chengchi University, Teaching Assistant to Professor Hsien-Ming Lien

**Research Experience and Other Employment:**

2018-2020	Brown University, Research Assistant, Professor Anna Aizer
2016	National Health Insurance Administration of Taiwan, Full-time Research Assistant

**Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:**

2022	Conference Travel Fund, Graduate School, Brown University
2022	Taubman Center Graduate Research Fellowship Award, Taubman Center for American Politics and Policy, Brown University
2021-2022	National Institutes of Health T32 Fellowship, Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University
2019	Doctoral Research Travel Grant, Graduate School, Brown University
2019	International Travel Fund, Graduate School, Brown University
2017-2020	Government Fellowship for Studying Abroad (\$42,000 per year), Ministry of Education, Taiwan
2015	Thesis of the Year Award in Education and Health Economics, Taiwan Economics Association

**Other Information:**

Languages	Taiwanese Hokkien (native), Mandarin Chinese (native), English (fluent), Japanese (intermediate)
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