

WENDY WONG

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Graduate Student Coordinator: Cynthia Cook-Conley, clcook@uchicago.edu, (773)702-4336

Education

The University of Chicago
Ph.D. Candidate in Public Policy
Job Market Paper: “*Optimal Monitoring and Bureaucrat Adjustments*”
Thesis Title: “Essays on Incentives in Public Institutions”
Expected Completion Date: June 2021

M.P.P. with honors, The University of Chicago, 2015
B.Sc. Economics and Physics, The University of Michigan, 2009

References

Professor Canice Prendergast (Co-Chair) Booth School of Business canice.prendergast@chicagobooth.edu	Professor Konstantin Sonin (Co-Chair) Harris School of Public Policy ksonin@uchicago.edu
Professor Christopher Blattman Harris School of Public Policy blattman@uchicago.edu	Professor Luis Martinez Harris School of Public Policy luismartinez@uchicago.edu

Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary fields: Applied Microeconomics, Development Economics
Secondary fields: Public Economics, Political Economy

Teaching Experience:

2019	Microeconomics I (PhD), Teaching Assistant for Professor Francisco Espinosa
2019	Analytical Politics for International Development (Master’s), Teaching Assistant for Professor Ethan Bueno de Mesquita
2017	Math Camp Algebra (Master’s), Instructor

2016-18	Decisions and Organizations (Master's), Teaching Assistant for Professors Wioletta Dziuda, Pablo Montagnes, Kara Ross Camarena
2017	Microeconomics II (Master's), Teaching Assistant for Professor Konstantin Sonin
2016	Political Economy I (PhD), Teaching Assistant for Professor Scott Ashworth
2016	Program Evaluation (Master's), Teaching Assistant for Professor Ofer Malamud

Scholarships, Fellowships, and Research Grants:

2019	Becker Friedman Institute Development Economics Initiative Research Grant, Principal Investigator (\$7,050)
2018	Economic and Development Institutions research grant, UKAID, co-Principal Investigator (£18,086)
2018	Tata Centre for Development research grant, co-Principal Investigator (\$50,274)
2017	Committee on South Asian Studies Pre-Dissertation Fellowship (\$4,800)
2015-2021	Harris School of Public Policy Ph.D. Fellowship
2013-2015	Harris School of Public Policy Dean's Scholarship

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2017-20	Professor Canice Prendergast, Research Assistant
2014-15	Professor Jeffrey Grogger, Research Assistant
2014	Professor Marianne Bertrand, Research Assistant
2014	Professor Christian Hansen, Research Assistant
2010-13	Abt Associates Inc., Analyst (Associate Analyst, 2010-11)

Job Market Paper:

“Optimal Monitoring and Bureaucrat Adjustments”

Monitoring policies aiming to maximize deterrence of bureaucrat misconduct, under a budget, require accounting for bureaucrats' attempts to evade detection. This paper examines strategic responses of bureaucrats based on their expectations of the likelihood of an audit in India's employment guarantee program. Exploiting random assignment to audits, I find deterrence of misappropriated expenditures is stronger at higher than lower expectations of the likelihood of an audit; and bureaucrats substitute across time and method of misappropriation to evade detection. Using these results and applying a model of Bayesian persuasion, I solve for the optimal design of information communicated on the likelihood of audit. An analysis of counterfactuals shows that a “crackdown” policy, i.e. informing of audits in advance, would have persuaded bureaucrats to forgo misappropriating an additional USD 35m in expenditures (16% of average annual expenditures in the empirical setting) when compared to a policy where the occurrence of audits is unpredictable, i.e. no information is provided.

Work in Progress:

“Improving property tax collection: Reducing property owner and monitor incentives to misreport” (with Yusuf Neggers, pilot phase)

Pre-Doctoral Publications:

“Assessing the Costs and Effects of Antiretroviral Therapy Task Shifting From Physicians to Other Health Professionals in Ethiopia” (with Johns, B., Asfaw, E., Bekele, A., Minior, T., Kebede, A., & Palen, J.) *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*, 65(4), 2014.

“Lessons learned from stakeholder-driven sustainability analysis of six national HIV programmes” (with Katz, I., Glandon, D., Kargbo, B., Ombam, R., Singh, S., Osika, J. S.) *Health Policy and Planning*, 29 (3), 379–387, 2014.

“Patient satisfaction with task shifting of antiretroviral services in Ethiopia: Implications for universal health coverage” (with Asfaw, E., Dominis, S., Palen, J. G. H., Bekele, A., Kebede, A., & Johns, B.) *Health Policy and Planning*, 29 (suppl 2), ii50–ii58, 2014.