

# ELIZABETH LUH

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## EDUCATION

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PhD. Candidate, Economics, University of Houston, (expected) May 2020

M.A. Economics, Economics, University of Houston, 2016

B.S. Economics with honors and Mathematics, University of Oregon, 2014

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Public Economics, Economics of Crime and Discrimination

## WORKING PAPERS

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“Not So Black and White: Uncovering Racial Bias from Systematically Misreported Trooper Reports”  
**Job market paper**([Click here for latest version](#))

*Abstract:* Highway police officers, or troopers, may misreport the race of people that they engage with in order to evade detection of racial bias. I propose a new test of racial bias in the presence of misreporting that is well-suited to explore the rich heterogeneity in bias behavior. Using a unique event in Texas where troopers were caught deliberately misreporting minority motorists as white, I find bias against all minority motorists, but especially against Hispanic motorists. I estimate bias for each trooper and find that nearly 60% of troopers were engaging in this behavior. Using my trooper level measure of bias, I identify causal relationships between bias and labor outcomes using a panel data set of trooper employment outcomes. I show misreporting was used effectively to evade detection of bias, with bias having no effect on labor market outcomes when the misreporting was possible. I find that after a rule change to trooper stop recording policy in response to the misreporting led to negative labor outcomes for biased troopers, specifically, lower rates of promotion and had lower salary growth. I further test how individual trooper bias changes in response to changes in peer, demographic compositions. In particular, black or Hispanic troopers are sensitive to changes in peer composition, while white troopers are unaffected.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

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“Effects of Local Incarceration rates on Children’s Educational Outcomes”

*Abstract:* I evaluate the effect of a drop in incarceration rates at the neighborhood level for drug crimes on children’s educational outcomes using Houston’s 2010 ‘trace case’ drug policy. I find limited overall effects on children’s education, but find that reading scores improve by 5.37% on average for 3rd graders in treated school zones. I also find smaller, but better measured results from using the 2008 election as my after variable. This implies that the policy only formalized the new DA’s pre-existing agenda of reducing drug incarcerations.

“Long term effects of racial bias: evidence using Chicago parking tickets”

*Abstract* Biased application of parking laws may have greater detrimental effects on neighborhoods than previously estimated. Using an exogenous increase in the fine for vehicle registration in Chicago enacted in 2017, I am able to test and measure racial bias in parking enforcement. I find that the increase in fines in black neighborhoods led to a 5% increase in driver’s license suspension, a 1% increase in bankruptcy declarations, and 10% increase in policing compared to white neighborhoods before and after the fine increase.

“Effect of Early Education on Long term Educational Outcomes” (joint with Dan Engster, Scott Hofer, and M.C. Sunny Wong)

“Effect of Children’s Dependence on Parents’ Labor Leisure Decision” (joint with Will Labadie)

“The Local Effects of Incarceration” (joint with Vikram Maheshri and Kenneth Whaley)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### University of Houston

*Instructor*

August 2016 - Present

*Houston, TX*

- Chinese Economy: Spring 2018 [4.2/5]
- Intermediate Microeconomics: Fall 2017 [4.1/5], Summer 2018 [3.9/5], Summer 2019 [3.9/5]
- Principles of Microeconomics: Fall 2015 [3.4/5], Summer 2016 [3.8/5]

### University of Houston

*Teaching Assistant*

August 2014- Present

*Houston, TX*

- Energy Economics (2014-2016)
- International Trade (Spring 2017)
- Behavioral Economics (Fall 2017)
- Intermediate Microeconomics (Spring 2018)
- Statistical Methods for Policy Research II (Spring 2019)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**August 2018 - May 2019**

University of Houston Hobby School of Public Affairs, Research Assistant

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

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**2019**

Dr. Walter J. Primeaux Jr. and Natalie A. Primeaux Scholarship Endowment  
*Awarded to Ph.D. student who has made substantial progress on theses*  
University of Chicago Becker Friedman Institute Price Theory Summer Camp  
Cullen Fellowship Travel Grant, University of Houston  
*Competitive fellowship program established to support graduate student travel*

**2018**

Best Graduate Presentation  
*Given for best presentation of a 4th year student in Ph.D. workshop;*  
*Awarded with paid trip to the Southern Economic Association Meetings*

**2014 - Present**

Graduate Fellowship, University of Houston

## PRESENTATIONS

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**2019**

Texas Econometrics Camp, Western Economic Association Annual Conference, STATA  
Texas Empirical Micro Conference (Poster), Missouri Valley Economic Association Annual  
Conference, University of Houston’s Graduate Research and Scholarship Project (3 minute  
thesis)

**2018**

Southern Economic Conference, STATA Texas Empirical Micro Conference (poster)

## LANGUAGE AND TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

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**Statistical Software**

STATA, R, MatLab

**Tools**

ArcGIS, Linux, High Performance Computing, Big Data, Parallel Computing

**Languages**

English (native), Mandarin Chinese (fluent), French (intermediate)

## REFERENCES

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Dr. Vikram Maheshri (advisor)  
Department of Economics  
University of Houston  
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Dr. Elaine Liu  
Department of Economics  
University of Houston  
emliu@central.uh.edu

Dr. Gergely Ujhelyi  
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Dr. Ruxandra Prodan - Boul  
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## OTHER INFORMATION

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Citizenship: U.S.A.