

ELIZABETH LUH

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EDUCATION

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

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

WORKING PAPERS

“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

“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.

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

Abstract: Roughly over 2 million people are incarcerated in the United States annually. While incarceration is necessary to maintain the safety and peace of innocent citizens, anecdotal research has found harmful effects on children in neighborhoods with high incarceration. Using administrative panel data for over 70,000 public school students in Houston, Texas and using inmate addresses to construct the incarceration rate by school zone, I evaluate the effect of a drop in incarceration rates at the school zone level for drug crimes on children’s educational outcomes. Since high incarceration rates and negative schooling outcomes for children are correlated

to poor neighborhood quality, I use the downgrading in the punishment of being caught with a trace amount of drugs from a felony to a misdemeanor as an exogenous shock to the incarceration rate. I find limited overall effects on children's test scores, but find behavioral improvements in children's schooling outcomes. (*Note: This paper is embargoed per data use agreement. Please reach out by email for a copy of this paper.)

"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

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

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
<i>Awarded to Ph.D. student who has made substantial progress on theses</i>
University of Chicago Becker Friedman Institute Price Theory Summer Camp
Cullen Fellowship Travel Grant, University of Houston
<i>Competitive fellowship program established to support graduate student travel</i> |
| 2018 | Best Graduate Presentation
<i>Given for best presentation of a 4th year student in Ph.D. workshop;</i>
<i>Awarded with paid trip to the Southern Economic Association Meetings</i> |
| 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) |

TECHNICAL STRENGTHS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Statistical Software

STATA, R, MatLab

Tools

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

Languages

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

Citizenship

U.S.A

REFERENCES

Dr. Vikram Maheshri (advisor)
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Dr. Ruxandra Prodan - Boul
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