

George Wayne Zuo

CONTACT INFORMATION	7022 Adelphi Road, Apt 11 Hyattsville, MD 20783	Phone: (704) 650-5202 E-mail: zuo@econ.umd.edu
EDUCATION	University of Maryland at College Park , College Park MD <i>Ph.D., Economics: Expected 2021</i>	Jul 2016 - present
	Harvard University , Cambridge, MA <i>B.A., Economics, Departmental High Honors</i>	Aug 2009 - May 2013
RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<i>Research Assistant, Melissa Kearney</i> Designing a field experiment to test effects of homelessness prevention on housing stability and labor/social outcomes (in conjunction with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab). <i>Research Assistant, Katharine Abraham and Melissa Kearney</i> (Via Smith Richardson Foundation) Ongoing research assistance for the paper “Explaining the Decline in the U.S. Employment to Population Ratio: A Review of the Evidence”. <i>Instructor, Stata Bootcamp</i> Led 12-hour course on basic and intermediate techniques in Stata. Designed curriculum and course materials, including a six-hour practicum.	Jun 2017 - present Feb 2017 - present Sept 2018
AWARDS AND RECOGNITION	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (Summer 2018 - Spring 2021) National recognition awarded for research potential to strengthen vitality of U.S. science and engineering enterprise; 37 fellowships awarded to economics graduate students nationwide. UMD Economics Third Year Paper Award (July 2019) Award given to a fourth year student for the top paper written during the third year. Paper title: “Wired and Hired: Employment Effects of Subsidized Broadband Internet for Low-Income Americans” (with Daniel Kolliner) UMD Poster Competition, First Prize (May 2019) First prize winner for poster session held during Visiting Students Day. Melville J. Ulmer Graduate Fellowship (May 2018) Award given to a third year student for the top paper written during the second year. Paper title: “Should we Suspend Suspensions? The Academic Impact of School Suspension Policies” UMD Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (Summer 2018) Summer research support for mid-career graduate students; ~40 fellowships awarded annually. Hilda Moskowitz Graduate Fellowship (Fall 2017 - Spring 2018) Supports a fellowship for an outstanding graduate student at the University of Maryland, who will in most instances work with the Neil Moskowitz Professor during the course of his or her studies. Abell Award in Urban Policy (May 2017) First-prize award given to the top paper written by a graduate student addressing a compelling issue in Baltimore City and providing a feasible policy solution (co-winner with Stephanie Zuo, JHMI). First-Year Graduate Fellowship (Fall 2016 - Spring 2017) One of five fellowships given to first-year economics PhD students at the University of Maryland. Thomas T. Hoopes Prize (April 2013) Harvard’s top honor for undergraduate thesis submissions. Thesis: “A Better Way to Fail: An Economic Comparison of Grades Versus Test Scores in Motivating Grade Retention Decisions”. Integrated empirical regression discontinuity analysis with theoretical model of grade retention outcomes.	

Wired and Hired: Employment Effects of Subsidized Broadband Internet for Low-Income Americans (with Daniel Kolliner; submitted July 2019)

We present evidence about the relationship between broadband internet pricing and labor market outcomes for low-income individuals. Specifically, we estimate the labor market effects of a Comcast service providing discounted broadband service to qualifying low-income families. We use a triple differences empirical strategy exploiting geographic variation in Comcast broadband coverage, individual variation in eligibility, and temporal variation pre- and post-program launch. PUMA-wide availability of the discounted pricing increased employment rates among eligible low-income individuals by 0.9 percentage point (1.6%). We confirm that internet use increased substantially where the program was available, narrowing the income-broadband gap by nearly 40 percent.

Should we Suspend Suspensions? The Academic Impact of School Suspension Policies (with Nolan Pope)

This paper presents evidence on the effects of school suspension rates on student achievement. We use administrative data from the Los Angeles Unified School District, where suspension rates fell by over 90% over the course of a decade. Our empirical approach leverages district-wide suspension trends and school-specific exposure to these trends to instrument for endogenous school suspension rates. The results indicate that a 10 percentage point increase in suspension rates leads to small increases in average math and ELA test scores of 0.03 to 0.04 standard deviations, respectively. Higher suspension rates produce small and diffuse spillover benefits experienced by all students; however, being suspended has large, deleterious effects on test scores. Overall, increasing suspension rates results in a tension between increasing efficiency versus equality: higher suspension rates produce small increases in average test scores while greatly reducing test scores for a small number of students on the margin of suspension.

MEDIA AND PRESENTATIONS

Association for Public Policy and Management (APPAM) Regional Student Conference, March 2019

Live radio interview on WBAL “News Now”, July 2017. “Cognitive behavioral therapy as a means of reducing youth crime in Baltimore”.

Zuo, George. “Could clinical psychology save Baltimore’s ‘high-risk’ youth? (Op-Ed)”. *Baltimore Sun*. July 2017. ([Link](#))

Zuo, George and Stephanie Zuo. “Juvenile Crime and the Heat of the Moment: A proposal to pilot cognitive behavioral therapy interventions to reduce youth crime and recidivism in Baltimore City”. *Abell Foundation Report*. July 2017. ([Link](#))

AFFILIATIONS

Maryland Population Research Center - Student Affiliate

Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab - Collaborator, State and Local Initiative

University of Maryland Economics Graduate Student Association - Member

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Deloitte Advisory LLP, Washington, DC

Senior Associate, Economic and Statistical Consulting

Jul 2015 - Jul 2016

Associate, Economic and Statistical Consulting

Jul 2013 - Jul 2015

Client service involving primary economic research, econometric and statistical analysis, quantitative business strategy, and manipulation of large, unstructured data sets. Highlights include:

- Labor policy research via DoL’s Employee Benefits Security Administration
- Quasi-experimental observational research in pharmaceutical innovation
- Macroeconomic forecasting/stress tests based on ARIMAX time series models
- Adapting machine learning algorithms for customer segmentation, anti-money laundering
- Statistical sampling and analysis of large transactional data sets in litigation settings

PROGRAMMING EXPERIENCE

Languages: R, Python, Visual Basic, L^AT_EX

Data Technology: Stata, SAS, T-SQL, PL/SQL, ArcGIS, QGIS

LANGUAGES AND CERTIFICATIONS	<p><i>Languages:</i> Mandarin (advanced), Spanish (conversational), and French (intermediate)</p> <p><i>Certifications:</i> SAS 9 Base Certification</p>
VOLUNTEERING AND HOBBIES	<p><i>Volunteering:</i> 6 years of afterschool tutoring and mentoring in South Boston, Washington D.C., and West Baltimore. Programs include Boys & Girls Club, Critical Exposure, Higher Achievement, South Boston Afterschool Program (director).</p> <p><i>Economics Graduate Student Association:</i> Planned department activities and recommended improvements for graduate study curriculum.</p> <p><i>Hobbies:</i> Founder and director of the Baltimore-based motown and funk band, “B’More Funk” (trumpet/vocals). Previous president of the Harvard mariachi, “Mariachi Veritas” (trumpet/vocals).</p>