

George Wayne Zuo

CONTACT INFORMATION	3450 Wayne Ave, Apt 13E Bronx, NY 10467	Phone: (704) 650-5202 E-mail: gzuo@umd.edu
EDUCATION	University of Maryland at College Park , College Park MD <i>Ph.D., Economics: Expected May 2021</i>	July 2016 - present
	Harvard University , Cambridge, MA <i>B.A., Economics</i>	Aug 2009 - May 2013
RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<i>Course Instructor, Economics of Education Policy (ECON455)</i> <i>Research Assistant, Melissa Kearney</i> Designed field experiment to test effects of homelessness prevention on housing stability, 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) Provided research assistance for the paper “Explaining the Decline in the U.S. Employment to Population Ratio: A Review of the Evidence” (JEL forthcoming). <i>Instructor, Stata Bootcamp</i> Designed and led 12-hour course on basic and intermediate techniques in Stata.	Summer 2020 Jun 2017 - July 2019 Feb 2017 - July 2019 Sept 2018
AWARDS AND RECOGNITION	UMD College of Behavioral and Social Sciences Dean’s Research Initiative (June 2020) \$2,500 award to support research costs. Title: “Decentralizing Community Development: Local Responses to Federal Block Grants for Revitalizing Low-Income Neighborhoods” UMD Faculty-Student Research Award (November 2019) \$10,000 award to support a faculty project directly involving graduate students. Title: “The Effects of Air Conditioning on Learning: Evidence from Chicago Public Schools” (Faculty: Nolan Pope) UMD Economics Third Year Paper Award (July 2019) Award given for the top paper written during third year. Title: “Wired and Hired: Employment Effects of Subsidized Broadband Internet for Low-Income Americans” (With Daniel Kolliner) UMD Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (Summer 2018) Summer research support for mid-career graduate students; ~40 fellowships awarded annually. 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. 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” 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.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Wired and Hired: Employment Effects of Subsidized Broadband Internet for Low-Income Americans

(R&R, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy)

I present evidence on the relationship between broadband pricing and labor market outcomes for low-income individuals. Specifically, I estimate the effects of a Comcast service providing discounted broadband to qualifying low-income families. I use a triple differences strategy exploiting geographic variation in Comcast coverage, individual variation in eligibility, and temporal variation pre- and post-launch. Local program availability increased employment rates and earnings of eligible individuals, driven by greater labor force participation and decreased probability of unemployment. Internet use increased substantially where the program was available.

Suspending Suspensions: The Education Production Consequences of School Suspension

(Nolan Pope and George Zuo)

Managing student behavior is integral to the education production process. Over the past half-century, a common but controversial approach has been to suspend disruptive students from the classroom, creating potential tradeoffs between disciplined students and their peers. We study these tradeoffs by modeling and estimating how changes in school suspension policies impact student performance and teacher turnover. We use administrative data from the Los Angeles Unified School District, where suspension rates fell by over 90 percent since 2003. We instrument for school suspension rates by interacting districtwide suspension rate changes with initial school suspension rate levels. Our results indicate that a reduction in suspension rates decreases math and English test scores, decreases GPAs, and increases absences. Teacher turnover also increases, particularly for inexperienced teachers. The overall negative impact of reducing suspension rates is driven by small but diffuse spillovers produced by more lenient disciplinary environments. These spillovers are only partially offset by large and concentrated benefits for the small number of students who are no longer suspended.

MEDIA AND PRESENTATIONS

Conferences: Association for Public Policy and Management (APPAM) Regional Student Conference (March 2019); Southern Economic Association (November 2019)

Federal Communications Commission Economic Seminar Series (postponed, COVID-19). "Wired and Hired: Employment Effects of Subsidized Broadband Internet for Low-Income Americans".

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

July 2015 - July 2016

Associate, Economic and Statistical Consulting

July 2013 - July 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, \LaTeX

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

LANGUAGES AND
CERTIFICATIONS

Languages: Mandarin (advanced), Spanish (conversational), and French (intermediate)

Certifications: SAS 9 Base Certification

VOLUNTEERING
AND HOBBIES

Volunteering: 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).

Economics Graduate Student Association: Planned department activities and recommended improvements for graduate study curriculum.

Hobbies: 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).