Hanson Ho

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EDUCATION

University of Chicago, MA Economics (GPA 3.8)   2020

- Price theory I–III, Theory of income I–III (PhD core); Firm dynamics and economic growth, Inequality: theory, methods and evidence, Macroeconomics and financial frictions (PhD elective).

University of Hong Kong, BS Economics & Finance (First-Class Honours, GPA 3.9)   2019

- Microeconomics, Econometrics (PhD core); Linear algebra, Vector calculus, Analysis, Complex analysis, Probability modeling, Statistical inference, Computer programming.

University of Oxford, BA Economics & Management (Visiting student)   2017

- Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, International economics, Money and banking, Game theory, Microeconomic analysis.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Chicago

Research professional at Fama-Miller Center   2021–Present

- Assist Prof Lars Hansen on a project about developing an approximation method for solving a class of DSGE model with robust and recursive preference, and a project about using machine learning technique to solve nonlinear partial differential equations.
- Assist Prof Raghuram Rajan and Prof Luigi Zingales on a project analyzing corporate objectives in shareholder letters, and the motivation of espousing these objectives by correlating it with firm performance, business environment, and socioeconomic trends (link to paper).

Research assistant for Constantine Yannelis   2020–Present

- Study the effect of student loan default penalty on the Brazilian education market using education census and student loan data; Construct structural model using differentiated products demand and supply approach, and estimate it using generalized method of moments; Analyze counterfactuals.

Research assistant at Center for the Economics of Human Development   Summer, 2020

- Construct data of medical examination records of rhesus macaques, and provide documentation.

University of Hong Kong

Undergraduate Research Fellow   2018–2019

- Study the impact of the Chinese Cultural Revolution on schooling quantitatively by estimating a human capital investment model using data from the Chinese Household Income Project (5 major surveys between 1995 and 2013).

RESEARCH PAPER

Skin in the game: College's financial incentives and student outcomes (link to paper)

with Nano Barahona, Cauê Dobbin, Sebastián Otero, and Constantine Yannelis

This paper studies how schools respond to financial incentives. Governments can penalize institutions with high dropout or loan default rates, and these institutions can respond by increasing quality or changing the selection of students. We build an equilibrium model to illustrate the trade-off faced by policymakers. We study the predictions of the model using a 2017 reform in Brazil, which made schools pay a fee for students receiving federal student loans that dropped out or defaulted. Consistent with the predictions of the model, we find that schools more reliant on government aid reduced dropout rates, primarily by increasing quality.

Optimal education subsidy and income tax with incomplete markets (master's thesis, link to paper)

This paper studies the optimal coverage of college education. Considers a social planner who decides who attends college and who pays tax to finance the budget. Sending students to college increases their wages and hence welfare. But increasing college attendance reduces the equilibrium wage and the overall return. Financing the budget through taxation also causes welfare loss. Because of these trade-offs, only students with a sufficiently high return to education should attend college. This paper explores these trade-offs using an overlapping generations model, and determines the optimal coverage of college education and the corresponding tax structure.

The impact of the Cultural Revolution on human capital investment (undergraduate thesis)

The Chinese Cultural Revolution disrupted the formal education system but there is no consensus whether personal develop was undermined. This paper reviews the education system and the social background during the Cultural Revolution. By estimating the return to human capital investment using large scale household income survey data, this paper answers the question to the affirmative. The variation of the impact across provinces in relation to political and geographical characteristics are also analyzed.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Phoenix Research Award, University of Chicago (2019)

Dean's Honours List, The University of Hong Kong (2018, 2016, 2015)

The Bank of East Asia Scholarship (2018)

Bank of China (Hong Kong) Scholarships (2018, 2017)

Shanghai Commercial Bank Scholarship (2017)

HKU Scholarship (2016, 2014)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited	Summer, 2017
Hong Kong Monetary Authority	Summer, 2016
Taylor Nelson Sofres	Summer, 2015

SKILLS

Languages: Advanced user in Python, Matlab, Stata, C++.