

## James Jiang

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### *Placement Chairs:*

Sandra Black, [sblack@columbia.edu](mailto:sblack@columbia.edu)  
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### *Placement Assistant:*

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### **Fields of Specialization**

Applied Microeconomics, Health Economics

### **Education**

Columbia University	Ph.D., Economics	Expected 2023
	M.Phil., Economics	2020
	M.A., Economics	2018
University of Hong Kong	B.Econ. ( <i>First Class Honours</i> )	2016

### **Job Market Paper**

Death Investigation Systems, Coroner Partisanship and Reported COVID-19 Mortality

**Abstract:** The politicization of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States has raised questions about the integrity and accuracy of death reporting, particularly in jurisdictions with elected, partisan coroners. Using mortality data from the CDC and manually collected data on county-level death certification systems and coroner party affiliation where applicable, I examine the parallel systems of appointed medical examiners and elected coroners and investigate the effect of partisanship on reported COVID-19 deaths. Cross-sectional comparisons do not seem to suggest counties with coroners report fewer deaths than those with medical examiners, and difference-in-differences specifications reveal limited evidence of a statistically significant but not economically meaningful effect of partisanship on reported COVID death counts.

### **Research**

Lead Pipe Information and Housing Prices: An Analysis in Washington, DC

**Abstract:** In 2016, the Water and Sewer Authority of Washington, DC released an online map that contains information on lead service lines (LSLs) for all properties in the district. Using the release as a natural experiment, this paper estimates the effect of the new information on prices of properties with and without LSLs. Recent literature has found that housing lead reduction policies such as

remediation mandates have significant price effects. In DC, while the map's release was followed by a marked increase in requests for water lead tests, neither a difference-in-differences model nor a repeat sales model captures a significant divergence between housing prices of the two types of properties after the release, implying the housing market response to the information was limited.

#### Marriage Tax Subsidy and the Decision to Marry: Same-Sex Couples After *United States v. Windsor*

**Abstract:** The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on *United States v. Windsor* in June 2013 compelled the federal government to recognize state-sanctioned same-sex marriages, including for tax purposes. The switch in the income tax filing status for same-sex couples meant that the marriage penalty or subsidy as a result of joint filing became a relevant factor that may enter couples' marriage decisions. I construct a sample of married and cohabiting same-sex couples in 2012 and 2014 from public-use data of the American Community Survey. Using a difference-in-differences methodology, I do not find evidence that same-sex couples who would earn a higher marriage subsidy became more likely to marry after the Supreme Court ruling.

#### Teaching Assistant Experience

Principles of Economics	Fall 2020, 2022
Microeconomic Analysis I (M.A.)	Fall 2017, 2018, 2019
Microeconomic Analysis II (M.A.)	Spring 2020, 2021
Introduction to Econometrics	Spring 2019
Intermediate Microeconomics	Spring 2018
Introductory Microeconomics (Undergraduate TA)	Fall 2015

#### Honors and Awards

Teaching Fellowship, Department of Economics, Columbia University	2022
Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Economics, Columbia University	2021
Wueller Teaching Award (runner-up), Columbia University <i>in the M.A. course category</i>	2021
Dean's Fellowship, Department of Economics, Columbia University	2016–2020
Jao Tao Su Prize in Economics, University of Hong Kong <i>for best overall academic performance in degree curriculum</i>	2016
C.V. Starr Scholarships, University of Hong Kong	2014
CMA and Donors Scholarship, University of Hong Kong	2014
Dean's Honours List, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Hong Kong	2013–2015
HKU Foundation Scholarships for Outstanding Mainland Students, University of Hong Kong	2012–2015

#### Miscellaneous

<b>Languages</b>	Mandarin (native), English (fluent), Cantonese (elementary)
<b>Software</b>	Stata, R, MATLAB, SAS

**Year of Birth**      1994

**References**

Michael Best

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