Jiangnan Zeng
https://www.jiangnanzeng.com/

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Department of Economics Cell phone: (773)9521373
University of Pittsburgh E-mail: jiz198@pitt.edu
4999 Wesley W. Posvar Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, University of Pittsburgh, expected June 2024
Thesis Title: "Racial Representation, Segregation, and Sorting"
Thesis Committee: Prof. Randall Walsh (Co-Chair), Prof. Daniel B. Jones (Co-Chair),
Prof. Claire Duquennois, Prof. Carlos Fernando Avenancio-León

M.A. Economics, University of Pittsburgh, 2020
M.A. Public Policy, University of Chicago, 2018
B.S. Finance, Renmin University of China, 2017

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary Fields: Public Economics, Urban Economics
Secondary Fields: Labor Economics, Political Economy

JOB MARKET PAPER

"Racial Representation, Segregation, and Sorting"

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS

"Estimating the Economic Impact of Intensifying Environmental Regulation in China", with Dali Yang and Qiyao Zhou, ***Environmental and Resource Economics***, 2023

"Meritocracy and Subnational GDP Manipulation in China", with Qiyao Zhou, Revise and resubmit at the ***Journal of Urban Economics***

"The City Council Member Next Door", with Daniel B. Jones and Randall Walsh, under review

"How Minority Representation in Government Affects Police Stop Minorities", with Daniel Jones and Xiaohong Wang, under review

"Housing market regulations and within-city spatial inequality"

SELECTED RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

"From Sesame Street to the polls: The voting impacts of representation in child media", with Claire Duquennois

"Sports and Racial Attitudes", with Claire Duquennois

"Racial Bias Impacts on Mental Health: Can Child Media Representation Help? ", with Claire Duquennois

"Media representations of Race: Impacts on Residential Sorting", with Claire Duquennois

"Local Politics and Migration Choice", with Noah McKinnie Braun

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Main Instructor: Introduction to Microeconomic Theory: Summer 2023
Teaching Assistant: Intermediate Microeconomics (Grader): Summer 2022;
Introduction to Macroeconomic Theory: Spring 2021;
Game Theory Principles (Grader): Fall 2020

SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

2024: American Economic Association Meetings, scheduled; North American Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society, scheduled
2023: European Economic Association Annual Meeting; Society of Labor Economics Annual Meeting (SOLE); Urban Economics Association Annual Meeting
2022: Asian Real Estate Society Annual Conference
2021: Midwest Economics Association Annual Conference

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS:

Social Science Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship ($25,764), University of Pittsburgh, 2023-2024
Andrew Mellon Pre-doctoral Fellowship ($25,332), University of Pittsburgh, 2022-2023
Department of Economics Summer Fellowship ($2,500), University of Pittsburgh, 2020
Distinguished Undergraduate Thesis, Renmin University of China, 2017

COMPUTER SKILLS:

Stata, Python, ArcGIS, MATLAB, R, Python

LANGUAGES:

Mandarin (native); English (fluent); French (intermediate)

"Racial Representations, Segregation, and Sorting" (job market paper)

The Black population in cities has declined in recent decades. Whether this is due to more appealing amenities in the suburbs or the rising cost of living in cities and displacement, politics might have a role in shaping demographic trends. This paper investigates the impact of electing a Black mayor on the location choices of Black and white individuals. Utilizing data from closely contested mayoral elections and a self-constructed migration dataset derived from North Carolina voter registration records, I establish causal links between the presence of a Black mayor and individual location decisions within and across cities. The analysis reveals that in North Carolina having a Black mayor leads to a 4% net increase in the population of majority-Black neighborhoods and a 2% rise in white neighborhoods. These findings are corroborated by tract-level data from 120 major U.S. cities. In majority-Black neighborhoods, the net population increase is attributed to reduced out-migration of both Black and white residents, coupled with an influx of Black individuals from outside the city. In predominantly white areas, out-migration decreases for residents of both racial groups, accompanied by a notable increase in white newcomers. The net effect of these changes is an increase in racial segregation arising from the increased concentration of Black individuals in majority-Black neighborhoods. Further analysis into the underlying mechanisms shows that Black representation narrows the amenities disparity between majority-Black and white neighborhoods.

"Meritocracy and Subnational GDP Manipulation in China" (with Qiyao Zhou), Revise and resubmit at the **Journal of Urban Economics**

What role do local officials' incentives play in regional economic growth? How do local officials behave under promotion pressure? This paper studies the unintended impact of mayors' promotion incentives on regional economic growth and subnational-level GDP manipulation in China. We employ a regression discontinuity design that accounts for age restrictions in deciding promotions for mayors. We find that when GDP performance is prioritized in officials' promotion evaluations (before 2013), mayors' promotion incentives significantly increase the statistical GDP growth rate by 3.4 percentage points. However, their effects on nighttime light and other non-manipulable real economic growth indicators are close to zero. This gap can be attributed to GDP manipulation under our empirical framework. The above pattern no longer persists after 2013, when the role of GDP statistics in mayoral promotions was reduced. Our findings indicate that GDP manipulation makes performance-based competition between mayors devolve into a data manipulation game. Further analyses suggest a dynamic pattern of GDP manipulation, and that GDP manipulation hampers officials' accountability.

"The City Council Member Next Door" (with Daniel B. Jones and Randall Walsh) (under review)

This paper examines whether the election of a city council member generates highly localized benefits within their own neighborhoods. We use housing prices as a summary

statistic to capture the numerous and difficult to observe ways in which local government allocates localized amenities. Drawing on data on North Carolina city council elections and the universe of housing transactions, we use a close-elections regression discontinuity strategy. We find that housing prices substantially increase for houses very close (within 0.2 miles) to a newly elected councilmember's place of residence.

"How Minority Representation in Government Affects Police Stop Minorities"
(with Daniel Jones and Xiaohong Wang) (under review)

We draw on statewide data from North Carolina to examine the impacts of racial and ethnic representation in city councils on policing. Specifically, we focus on outcomes of traffic stops; e.g., whether a driver receives a warning or a citation after being stopped. We first document large Black-white and Latino-white disparities in the likelihood of consequence (arrest or citation) after a traffic stop. We then use a difference-in-differences design, focusing on changes following (narrow) elections of nonwhite (rather than white) councilmembers, and find that increased nonwhite council representation significantly reduces Black-white gaps in stops and actions taken after a stop. The magnitude of the reduction is similar with and without officer fixed effects, suggesting that results are largely driven by individual officer-level behavior change rather than a change in the composition of the police force.

"Housing market regulations and within-city spatial inequality"

Housing prices more than tripled in China in the past decade, especially in big cities. The central and local governments took many steps to cool off the overheating housing market; among them, the most stringent one is the 2016-2017 wave of regulation, which tightens home purchasing restrictions on residential parcels by increasing the down payment ratio requirement for mortgages. This paper studies housing market regulations' impact on housing price dispersion and spatial inequality within a city. Evidence based on Shanghai housing market transaction records shows that the 2016-2017 wave regulation decreased city-level price dispersion and spatial inequality. The regulations have a differentiated impact on segments of the housing market, effectively stable the relative prices between low- and high-quality neighborhoods. Results for the other four major cities provide a similar pattern, suggesting a general pattern of the regulation effects in all the metropolitan cities in China.

<u>RESEARCH IN PROGRESS</u>:

"From Sesame Street to the polls: The voting impacts of representation in child media" (with Claire Duquennois)

Sesame Street's representation of minority characters, egalitarian minority-White interactions and portrayal of working women was distinctive in the mass media landscape of 1969, when it started airing. By exploiting technologically induced variation in broadcast reception, this paper identifies the first evidence of long-run reductions in prejudice, with impacts on voter preferences, as a result of exposure to child media.

"Sports and Racial Attitudes" (with Claire Duquennois)

Sports in the United States have seen a significant rise in outstanding minority players who attract substantial media attention, public visibility, and influence. In this paper, we investigate whether the public's racial attitudes are impacted in the short run by exposure to, and the performance of, key visible minority athletes such as Black NFL quarterbacks and Hispanic MLB pitchers. This has potential implications for the incidence of hate speech and crimes. Preliminary results indicate that, for NFL games, measures of implicit bias among white test takers decreased after wins led by local Black quarterbacks but increased after losses to opposing teams led by Black quarterbacks.

"Local Politics and Migration Choice" (with Noah McKinnie Braun)

This paper examines the role of local politics in residential sorting and its implications for political polarization. Using mayoral elections between Democratic candidates and non-Democratic candidates, coupled with individual-level migration data in North Carolina, we explore the impact of local official elections and subsequent policy changes on the migration decisions of political partisans. Preliminary results show that the election of a Democratic mayor boosts the overall population of municipalities in North Carolina. This increase is attributed to a decrease in out-migration and an uptick in in-migration among Democrats.

REFERENCES:

Prof. **Randall Walsh** (Co-Chair)
Department of Economics
University of Pittsburgh
4511 Wesley W. Posvar Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Phone: (412) 648-1737
Email: walshr@pitt.edu

Prof. **Daniel B. Jones** (Co-Chair)
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs,
University of Pittsburgh
3424 Wesley W. Posvar Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Phone : 412-648-4334
E-mail: dbj10@pitt.edu

Prof. **Claire Duquennois**
Department of Economics,
University of Pittsburgh
4700 Wesley W. Posvar Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Phone: (720)206.9212
Email: ced87@pitt.edu

PLACEMENT OFFICERS:

Prof. Stephanie W. Wang (412) 648-1749   email: swwang@pitt.edu
Ms. Gwen Viles   email: gev26@pitt.edu