Jiangnan Zeng

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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***

"Racial Representation in Local Government and Racial Disparities in Policing", with
Daniel Jones and Xiaohong Wang, under review

"Casting Roles, Casting Votes: Lessons from Sesame Street on Media Representation and
Voting", with Claire Duquennois

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

SELECTED RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

"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

"Housing Market Regulations and Within-city Spatial Inequality"

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

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

COMPUTER SKILLS:

Stata, Python, ArcGIS, MATLAB, R, Python

LANGUAGES:

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

<u>**WORKING PAPERS ABSTRACTS**</u>

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

This paper investigates the impact of racial representation in local government on individual migration decisions, public goods provision, and residential segregation. I have constructed a novel migration dataset that allows me to track individual migration patterns within and across cities based on North Carolina voter registration records. Utilizing data from closely contested mayoral elections and this migration dataset, I establish causal links between the presence of a Black mayor and individual location decisions. The analysis reveals that 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. Using the information I construct on individual migration decisions, I am able to further demonstrate that these net population changes are the result of the reduced out-migration of both Black and white residents and a modest increase in movers from outside the city. 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 and shifts local media focus towards Black 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.

"Racial Representation in Local Government and Racial Disparities in Policing"
(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.

"Casting roles, casting votes: Lessons from Sesame Street on media representation and voting" (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 both age variation and technological variation in broadcast reception, this paper contributes to the media and contact theory literatures by showing that positive representations of minorities via mass media can reduce long-run prejudice and impact voting, an important societal outcome. We find that for preschool-age children, a 20 percentage point (1 standard deviation) increase in Sesame Street coverage reduced adult measures of implicit racial biases for white respondents and increased reported voting for minority and women candidates by 14 % and 9.5 % respectively. Voter turnout also increased by 4.8 %. Voting for democratic candidates increased because of the increase in voting for diverse candidates. When the sample is restricted to ballots featuring white men, turnout gains are split between parties.

"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.

<u>**RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**</u>:

"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.

"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>**REFERENCES**</u>:

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