JENNY SHEN

PERSONAL INFORMATION

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Placement Director:	Steve Redding	reddings@princeton.edu	+1 (609) 258-4016
Graduate Administrator:	Laura Hedden	lhedden@princeton.edu	+1 (609) 258-4006

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Julis Romo Rabinowitz Building
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ 08544
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UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2013,
S.B., Economics (minor: Women's and Gender Studies)

GRADUATE STUDIES

Princeton University, 2014 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: "Essays in Public Economics"
Expected Completion Date: June 2020

M.A. Economics, Princeton University, 2016

REFERENCES

Professor Ilyana Kuziemko
Department of Economics
Princeton University
kuziemko@princeton.edu

Professor Janet Currie
Department of Economics
Princeton University
609-258-7393, jcurrie@princeton.edu

Professor Thomas Fujiwara
Department of Economics
Princeton University
fujiwara@princeton.edu

Professor Ebonya Washington
Department of Economics
Yale University
ebonya.washington@yale.edu

TEACHING AND RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary Fields	Public Economics, Applied Microeconomics
Secondary Fields	Economics of Gender, Environmental Economics

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Sept 2016 – May 2017	Research Assistant for Prof. Janet Currie
May 2015 – Oct 2015	Research Assistant for Profs. Ilyana Kuziemko and Ebonya Washington
July 2013 – June 2014	Research Assistant, Council of Economic Advisers
Jan, June – Aug 2012	Policy Intern, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2019	Microeconomic Analysis for Policymakers (WWS511b) Teaching Assistant for Prof. Amy Craft
Fall 2017	Introduction to Microeconomics (ECO100) Head Teaching Assistant for Prof. Hank Farber
Fall 2017	Economics of the Internet: The Digital Revolution (ECO326) Teaching Assistant for Prof. Swati Bhatt
Spring 2013	Introduction to Econometrics (14.32, MIT) Undergraduate Teaching Assistant / Grader for Prof. Joshua Angrist

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Referee for American Economic Journal: Applied Economics

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2018-2019	Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars
2013	1st place, MIT Undergraduate Econ. Assoc. Journal Competition
2012	Burchard Scholar

PRESENTATIONS

2018	Society of Labor Economists (SOLE), CUNY Baruch College, Bloomberg Women's Community

JOB MARKET PAPER

"(Non-)Marital Sorting and the Closing of the Education Gender Gap"

Abstract: Educational assortative mating has important implications for household income inequality and intergenerational mobility. Existing work in this area has found that assortative mating has increased over time, using a measurement paradigm that compares observed matches to a counterfactual world where men and women match randomly. I show (using a simulation exercise) that the measured increase in assortative mating over the last 50 years is in fact mechanically driven by the closing of the gender gap in education. That is, as men's and women's education distributions grew more similar over time, men and women had more opportunity to find a match with someone of the same education level. I propose a new measure of assortative mating, which I call the Perfect-Random normalization, which bounds observed matches from below by a counterfactual world where men and women match randomly and from above by a counterfactual world where men and women match perfectly according to education. Once I control for the changing gender gap in education using my proposed Perfect-Random normalization, I find that assortative mating has actually *decreased* over time, until around 2000, at which point it began to sharply increase. I then utilize the Perfect-Random normalization to measure trends in assortative mating among all new parents using an administrative dataset of birth certificates in the U.S.. With births to unmarried parents comprising 40 percent of births in recent years, studying only married or cohabiting couples (as is the convention in the literature) misses a large relevant swath of the population, especially in the context of questions relating to intergenerational mobility. I find that trends are consistent between new parents in the Vital Statistics dataset and married couples in the Current Population Survey.

RESEARCH PAPERS

"The Mommy Effect: Do Women Anticipate the Employment Effects of Motherhood?"
(with I. Kuziemko, J. Pan, and E. Washington; NBER Working Paper No. 24740)

Abstract: After decades of convergence, the gender gap in employment outcomes has recently plateaued in many rich countries, despite the fact that women have increased their investment in human capital over this period. We propose a hypothesis to reconcile these two trends: that when they are making key human capital decisions, women in modern cohorts underestimate the impact of motherhood on their future labor supply. Using an event-study framework, we show substantial and persistent employment effects of motherhood in U.K. and U.S. data. We then provide evidence that women do not anticipate these effects. Upon becoming parents, women (and especially more educated women) adopt more negative views toward female employment (e.g., they are more likely to say that women working hurts family life), suggesting that motherhood serves as an information shock to their beliefs. Women on average (and, again, more educated women in particular) report that parenthood is harder than they expected. We then look at longer horizons—are young women's expectations about future labor supply correct when they make their key educational decisions? In fact, female high school seniors are increasingly and substantially overestimating the likelihood they will be in the labor market in their thirties, a sharp reversal from previous cohorts who substantially underestimated their future labor supply. Finally, we specify a model of women's choice of educational investment in the face of uncertain employment costs of motherhood, which demonstrates that our results can be reconciled only if these costs increased unexpectedly across generations. We end by documenting a collage of empirical evidence consistent with such a trend.

"Local Effects of Coal-Fired Power Plant Closures"

Abstract: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to slow the pace of climate change has become an increasingly important issue. One common proposed method is to move away from coal-fired electricity generation to electricity generated by cleaner fuels. While reducing greenhouse gases brings many benefits widely distributed, the costs are likely disproportionately borne by communities that rely on coal for local economic activity. In the United States, the closure of coal-fired power plants—driven in large part due to competition from cheap natural gas—presents a preview of potential impacts of policies designed to reduce coal use. Using a triple-difference regression framework that leverages staggered closings in combination with comparing near and far areas around power plant, I examine the local economic impacts of coal-fired power plant closures. I find limited effects of closure on house prices, and a slight decline in labor income after a plant closure.

"Does the Availability of Music Streaming Products Decrease Rates of Music Piracy?: Evidence from Google Trends"
(1st place, MIT Undergraduate Economics Association Journal Competition, 2013; Featured on MIT's undergrad economics major page)

Abstract: In 2008, the Swedish company Spotify began rolling out its music streaming product, which rapidly gained popularity, filling a gap in consumer demand for cheaper alternatives to services such as iTunes, Amazon, and CD albums. I exploit the intertemporal variation in Spotify's introduction into new countries to examine the impact that Spotify has on music piracy rates and use Google Trends search data to proxy for Spotify usage rates, music piracy rates, and for an additional control variable. I find that once I control for country-specific time trends in music piracy rates, the introduction of Spotify does indeed reduce rates of music piracy, albeit temporarily. These results are robust to different measures of music piracy and Spotify, as well as a control for Grooveshark user volume. However, the statistical significance of these effects is uncertain.

PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES

2017-current	Resident Graduate Student Advisor, Forbes College
2016-2019	Post-generals mentor to 1st-year economics graduate students
2016-2018	Princeton Graduate Economics Club, Treasurer
2015-2016	Princeton Graduate Economics Club, Social Chair

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Citizenship	·	United States
Languages	·	English (native), Mandarin (intermediate/native)
Skills	·	Stata, LaTeX, Python, QGIS/ArcGIS, MS Excel

October 30, 2019