

Jia Liu

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Major Fields of Concentration

Macroeconomics, Development Economics, Public Economics

Education

Ph.D., Economics, University of Houston, 2017-present

M.A., Economics, Binghamton University (SUNY), 2017.

M.A., Environmental and Natural Resources Management, Renmin University of China, 2015.

B.S., Environmental Science, B.A., Agricultural Economics, Renmin University of China, 2013.

Research Papers

Working Papers

"Pension Reform, Child Investment and Household Saving in China" (**Job Market Paper**)

Abstract: Seniors may rely on support from their adult children, which provides an incentive for parents, when young, to invest in their children's human capital. Seniors may also rely on their own savings. Pension policy therefore affects young parents' savings behavior or investment in their children's education. I study the impact of a 1997 pension reform in urban China on household savings and child investment using a difference-in-differences approach. I find that a decrease in pension benefits leads to higher savings and higher investment in children. I estimate adult children's transfers to their parents as a function of their education level, the number of siblings, and parents' pension income. Both adult children's human capital and number of siblings are positively correlated with transfers to senior parents. Transfers from children are substitutes for parents' own savings and pension income.

"One-child Policy, Pension Reform and Household Saving Rates in China"

Abstract: This paper examines the impact of the One-child policy and pension reforms on household savings in China using an overlapping generations model. The model incorporates intergenerational transfer, endogenous fertility, human capital investment, and pension system by extending the framework in Choukhmane et al. (2013). Using the parameters calibrated with microdata in Choukhmane et al. (2013), I find that the one-child policy increases individual household saving rates across all age groups and it leads to a relatively flat age-saving profile. The one-child policy also increases investment in the human capital of children. The model predicts that an increase in pension benefits discourages household savings and decreases investment in the human capital of children. However, responses vary across households with different initial wealth.

Work in Progress

"Welfare Impacts of Consumption Habits with Income Shocks"

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Houston, Summer 2021

Research Assistant to Prof. Steven Craig

Research Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Houston, Summer 2018

Research Assistant to Prof. Kei-Mu Yi

Teaching Experience

Instructor, Department of Economics, University of Houston

Principles of Microeconomics, Spring 2020, Fall 2021

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Houston, 2017-present

Introduction To Econometrics, Intermediate Microeconomics

International Trade, Economics of Financial Crises

Macroeconomic Theory 1 (Ph.D.), Macro Modeling and Forecasting

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, Binghamton University (SUNY), 2015-2017

Educational Economics

Mathematics and Statistics (Ph.D.)

Principles of Macroeconomics

International Trade

Honors and Awards

Graduate Fellowship, University of Houston, 2017-present

Graduate Fellowship, Binghamton University (SUNY), 2015-2017

First Prize Scholarship (National Inspirational scholarship), 2010-2012

Tsang hin chi scholarship (awarded by Tsang hin chi education foundation), 2010-2012

RUC scholarship for international summer camp, Summer 2011

Presentations

2020: Missouri Valley Economic Association Conference.

Computer Skills

Python, Matlab, R, Stata, GIS, Julia, L^AT_EX

Languages

English (Fluent), Chinese (Native)

References

Professor Kei-Mu Yi
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