

# 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 policies, therefore, can affect young parents' savings behavior, as well as 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 transfers, endogenous fertility, human capital investment, and the pension system. I find that the one-child policy increases individual household saving rates across all age groups. And pension benefits discourage household savings. However, the response varies across households with different initial wealth. Besides, I find that the one-child policy increases investment in children's human capital from parents, while pension benefits have the opposite effect. However, on the aggregate level, the predictions are consistent with the micro-level pattern.

### *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.

## Computer Skills

Python, Matlab, R, Stata, GIS, Julia, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, SQL

## Languages

English (Fluent), Chinese (Native)

## Citizenship

China

## References

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