

Katsuhiko Nishiyama

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Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2024 (expected).

M.P.P. Public Policy (Economic Policy Program), University of Tokyo, 2014.

B.A. Economics, University of Tokyo, 2012.

Predoctoral Employment

2017–2018 Project Researcher at University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Economics, Tokyo, Japan

2014–2017 Consultant at Mizuho Information & Research Institute, Social Policy Division, Tokyo, Japan

Research interests

Labor economics, Health economics, Applied microeconomics

Working Papers

1. “Medical Debt, Self-Insurance, and the Value of Health Insurance for the Non-Elderly”. *Job Market Paper*.
Short Abstract: In the US, about 60% of non-elderly workers are insured through employer-sponsored health insurance (ESHI). This paper studies how non-elderly workers manage various forms of insurance to cope with medical expenditure shocks and how their coping strategies affect job search decisions. Specifically, I examine the role of self-insurance through saving/borrowing and delaying medical bill payments. To that end, I develop and estimate a job search model in which individuals can insure themselves against medical expenditure shocks in three ways: (1) by enrolling in ESHI, (2) by saving and borrowing, and (3) by accumulating medical debt and repaying them over time. The findings reveal that the valuation of ESHI varies depending on an individual’s net liquid assets and medical debt. Consequently, uninsured employees with a higher valuation of ESHI accept a job providing ESHI at lower wages and transition to a job with ESHI more often.
2. “Shrinking Populations, Aging, and Access to Healthcare: Evidence from Japan” (with Toshiaki Iizuka). *under revision*.
Short Abstract: Population shrinkage and aging are inevitable futures in many countries. Using data from Japan, we study the impacts of such demographic changes on healthcare providers and access to care. Estimating an equilibrium entry model determining the number of physicians in small cities, we find that population shrinkage substantially reduces the number of physicians and access to care. In contrast, the impact of aging will vary by patient mix, with a decrease in specialties that target younger patients but an increase when older patients contribute more to profits.

Publications

1. “False alarm? Estimating the marginal value of health signals” (with Toshiaki Iizuka, Karen Eggleston, and Brian Chen). *Journal of Public Economics*, 2021, 195, 104368.
Short Abstract: We study the marginal value of information in the context of health signals that people receive after checkups. Although underlying health status is similar for individuals just below and above

a clinical threshold, treatments differ according to the checkup signals they receive. For the general population, whereas health warnings about diabetes increase healthcare utilization, health outcomes do not improve. However, among high-risk individuals, health outcomes improve, and improved health is worth its cost.

Work in Progress

1. "Medical Debt and Future Access to (Quality) Health Care"(with Qing Gong).

Short Abstract: We study whether medical debt affects a patient's future access to care, using all-payer data on the universe of inpatient, outpatient, and emergency department discharges in New York State from 2006 to 2017. Leveraging rich information on patients and the costs of their prior visits, we first construct a conservative, lower-bound estimate of whether a visit resulted in significant medical debt. We then track the access to and the type, amount, and outcome of care received by patients with medical debt and compare them with otherwise identical patients. We find that, all else equal, patients with outstanding medical debt in a previous visit (i) are significantly less likely to be admitted for treatment after showing up at emergency departments; (ii) are allocated fewer medical resources and seen by less experienced providers; (iii) are discharged faster, yet are more likely to die during their stay.

Teaching Experience

2018–2023 Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, UNC-Chapel Hill

ECON400 Introductory Statistics and Econometrics	ECON470 Introduction to Econometrics
ECON440 Public Finance	ECON480 Labor Economics
ECON450 Health Economics	ECON486 Gender and Economics
ECON460 International Economics	

2018 Guest Lecturer, Department of Economics, UNC-Chapel Hill

ECON469 Asian Economic System

Conference and Seminar Presentations

2023 Triangle Applied Microeconomics Conference, SEA Annual Meeting

2018 The 9th Seminar for Young Researchers at Japanese Health Economics Association

Honors and Awards

2023 Bill Parke Research Award, UNC-Chapel Hill

2023 UNC Graduate Representative, SEA Annual Meeting

References

Dr. Luca Flabbi (*Advisor*)

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