

Meiqing Ren

Department of Economics
University of Illinois at Chicago

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Chicago

Ph.D., Economics

Expected May 2023

Chicago, IL

Chair: Dr. Darren Lubotsky

Committee Members: Dr. So Yoon Ahn, Dr. Ben Feigenberg, Dr. Yiqun Chen, Dr. Joanna Lahey

Baylor University

M.S., Economics

May 2017

Waco, TX

Sun Yat-Sen University

B.M., Financial Management

June 2015

Guangzhou, China

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary Fields: Labor Economics, Health Economics

Secondary Fields: Entrepreneurship, Gender Economics

WORKING PAPERS

Job Market Paper:

“Is Health Insurance a Barrier to Women’s Entrepreneurship? Evidence from State Infertility Insurance Mandates in the United States”

Abstract: One in seven couples in the United States experience infertility. Despite improved medical technology to treat infertility problems, infertility treatments remain extremely costly. In this paper, I study the effects of infertility insurance mandates in the United States on women’s entrepreneurship. I exploit state-level policy changes that require employer-sponsored health insurance plans to cover infertility treatments. Using a triple difference strategy applied to data from the March Current Population Survey, I find that women of later childbearing age (30-45) are less likely to become self-employed as a result of the mandates. Further investigation shows a larger effect for women lacking an alternative source of health insurance through a spouse. My results provide evidence of entrepreneurship lock, implying that a tightened link between health insurance and wage-and-salary employment discourages entrepreneurship.

“Preschool and Child Health: Evidence from China’s Subsidized Child Care Program”

Under Review at the [Economics of Education Review](#)

“Gender Wage Gap, Bargaining Power, and Charitable Giving of Households”

with [So Yoon Ahn](#). Under Review

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Physician Visits to Street Hunt: Unintended Consequences of Hydrocodone Rescheduling”

with Zheyuan (Damien) Dong

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Dr. So Yoon Ahn

University of Illinois at Chicago

Aug 2018 – Aug 2020

Chicago, IL

Research Assistant to Dr. James Henderson

Baylor University

Aug 2015 – May 2017

Waco, TX

Research Assistant to Dr. Shanmin Li

Sun Yat-Sen University

Jan 2014 – May 2014

Guangzhou, China

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Course Instructor

Health Economics, UIC Undergraduate (**Evaluation 4.65/5**)

Spring 2021

International Economics, UIC Undergraduate (**Evaluation 4.9/5**)

Summer 2020

Teaching Assistant

Principles of Macroeconomics, UIC Undergraduate

Spring 2022

Freakonomics, UIC Undergraduate

Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2021, Fall 2022

Intermediate Econometrics, Baylor Undergraduate

Fall 2016, Spring 2017

Microeconomics, Sun Yat-Sen Undergraduate

Spring 2015

AWARDS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Illinois Economic Association **Ph.D. Student Paper Competition Winner**, IEA

2022

Mercatus Center Oskar Morgenstern Fellowship, George Mason University

2022

Graduate Sylvia L. Saffrin Award (**Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching**), UIC

2022

Graduate Winifred Geldard Memorial Award (**Outstanding Third Year Paper**), UIC

2021

Graduate College Student Presenter Award, UIC

2021

Graduate Student Council Conference Award, UIC

2021

Hankamer School of Business the Outstanding Graduate Award, Baylor

2017

Hankamer School of Business Tuition Scholarship Awards, Baylor

2015 – 2017

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Rising Scholars Conference at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business

Nov 2022

Illinois Economics Association (IEA) 51st Annual Meeting

Nov 2022

International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE) Annual Conference

Jun 2022

Annual Canadian Economics Association (CEA) Meetings

May 2022

ASSA/AEA Virtual Annual Meeting (Poster)

Jan 2022

Southern Economic Association (SEA) 91st Annual Meeting

Nov 2021

Illinois Economics Association (IEA) 50th Annual Meeting

Oct 2021

The Society for the Study of Economic Inequality (ECINEQ) Meeting

Jul 2021

Annual Canadian Economics Association (CEA) Meetings

Jun 2021

Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society (AMES)

Jun 2021

International Association for Applied Econometrics (IAAE) Annual Conference

Jun 2021

International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE) Annual Conference

Jun 2021

APPAM Student Research Online Seminar Series

May 2021

Essen Health Conference

May 2021

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Memberships

American Economic Association (2021&2022), Canadian Economics Association (2021&2022), International Association for Feminist Economics (2021&2022), The Econometric Society (2021), Southern Economic Association (2021)

Services

International Association for Feminist Economics Online Events Committee, IAFFE	2022 – 2023
Graduate Student Seminar Co-organizer, UIC	2019 – 2020
Graduate Student Mentor, UIC	2018 – 2020

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming

Proficient in Stata and LaTeX; experienced in R, ArcGIS, MATLAB, and SQL

Languages

English (fluent), Mandarin (native)

REFERENCES

Dr. Darren Lubotsky

Acting Head and Director of Graduate Studies; Associate Professor

Department of Economics, UIC

lubotsky@uic.edu

Dr. Georgios Karras

Professor

Department of Economics, UIC

gkarras@uic.edu

Dr. Joanna Lahey

Associate Professor

The Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M

jlahey@tamu.edu

Dr. So Yoon Ahn

Assistant Professor

Department of Economics, UIC

syahn@uic.edu