Muye Chen

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Education

Ph.D. Economics, Cornell University   Expected May 2022

M.A. Economics, Cornell University   2019

M.S. Statistics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign   2016

B.A. (*magna cum laude*), Economics and Mathematics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign   2014

References

Nicholas Sanders (chair)
Assistant Professor
Cornell University
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Douglas Miller
Professor
Cornell University
douglas.l.miller@cornell.edu

Ivan Rudik
Ruth and William Morgan
Assistant Professor
Cornell University
irudik@cornell.edu

Fields of Study

Primary: Environmental Economics

Secondary: Labor Economics, Health Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Research

Working Papers

"Labor Market Effects of Environmental Disasters and Information Shocks: Evidence from Inland Oil Spills" (Job Market Paper)

This paper provides causal estimates on how inland oil spills, one major type of environmental disaster, affect local labor markets. By exploiting severe inland petroleum oil spills and their news coverage status, I find that spills negatively affect county-level labor markets, but only when a spill is in the news. In the five years after a severe inland spill that receives news coverage, employment, wages, the number of establishments, and the labor force all decrease significantly. Severe inland spills not reported in the news yield no such effects. Exposure to spill information induces composition changes in county-level gross migration, weakening labor market conditions in low-tradability industries, such as retail and food services. Information on environmental disasters triggers sorting, which has distributional effects and degrades labor markets in counties that experienced spills with news coverage. Back-of-the-envelope calculations suggest that compared to the control group, counties with spills that receive news coverage lost 407,000 jobs, the monetary value of which is equivalent to $41.4B, and $27.1B in foregone wages in aggregate during the post period.

"No News is Bad News: Mortality Effects of Inland Oil Spills Vary with News Coverage"

Exploiting county-level variation in exposure to severe inland oil spills and their news coverage status, I estimate that oil spills raise ambient air pollution levels and mortality rates, but only when a spill is not reported in the news. The increases in mortality rates are caused by the elevated air pollution and are concentrated in the most susceptible group: elderly adults. When a spill is covered in the news, there are not only no changes in ambient air quality but also persistent decreases in county-level mortality rates. By exploring heterogeneous effects, I show that the decreases in mortality rates are due to out-migration. The differential effects on air pollution and mortality imply that information on environmental disasters is beneficial to the environment and human health.

Work in Progress

"Local Multipliers of Green Jobs"

This paper evaluates the impacts of expanding green jobs on non-green employment, energy production and consumption, and CO_2 emissions. By employing a shift-share instrumental variable approach, I find that one additional green job generates about four non-green jobs at the state level in the United States. Most of the increase comes from low-tradability industries. The cleaner an industry in terms of air pollution emissions, the larger the multiplier effect of green jobs. Furthermore, having more green jobs also significantly boosts the production and consumption of renewable energy, and lowers CO_2 emissions.

Publications

Chen, M., M. Regenwetter, and C. P. Davis-Stober. 2021. **"Collective Choice May Tell Nothing About Anyone's Individual Preferences,"** *Decision Analysis*, 18(1):1-24.

Allen, T. E., M. Chen, J. Goldsmith, N. Mattei, A. Popova, M. Regenwetter, F. Rossi, and C. Zwilling. 2015.**"Beyond Theory and Data in Preference Modeling: Bringing Humans into the Loop,"** In: Walsh T. (eds) *Algorithmic Decision Theory*, New York, NY: Springer. (Non-Peer Reviewed)

Research Assistance Experience

Research Assistant for Jura Liaukonyte, Cornell University	2018
Research Assistant for Tatyana Deryugina, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	2014-2016
Research Assistant for Michel Regenwetter, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	2014-2016

Teaching Assistance Experience

ECON 3120 Applied Econometrics, George Jakubson, Cornell University	Fall 2021
ECON 3120 Applied Econometrics, Doug McKee, Cornell University	Spring 2020
PAM 6090 Empirical Strategies for Policy Analysis (Ph.D. level), Doug Miller, Cornell University	Fall 2018, 2019
AEM 1300 Introduction to Macroeconomic Theory and Policy, Arnab Basu, Cornell University	Summer 2019
ECON 4250 Economics of Crime and Corruption, Daria Bottan, Cornell University	Spring 2019
ECON 1110 Introductory Microeconomics, Jenny Wissink, Cornell University	Spring 2018
ECON 1110 Introductory Microeconomics, Stephanie Thomas, Cornell University	Fall 2017

Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

Sage Fellowship, Cornell University	2016-2021
University Honors Scholar (highest recognition for undergraduate excellence), UIUC	Spring 2014
Richard Winkel 2013 Convocation Speaker GPA Award, UIUC	Spring 2014
First Place in the AXIS Student Challenge, UIUC	Spring 2014
Elizabeth R. Bennett Scholarship in Mathematics, UIUC	Spring 2014
Robert L. & Amelia Louise Rivers Scholarship in Economics, UIUC	Spring 2013
Merit-Based Scholarship, Shandong University (Coursework toward B.S. in Finance)	Fall 2010 - Spring 2012

Conference and Seminar Presentations

Joint Labor Economics & Applied Economics and Policy Workshop, Cornell University	2021
Northeast Workshop on Energy Policy and Environmental Economics, UPenn (Virtual)	2021
Sustainable Environment, Energy and Resource Economics Research Seminar, Cornell University	2020, 2021
European Mathematical Psychology Group Annual Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark	2016
Foundations of Utility and Risk Conference, University of Warwick, Coventry, UK	2016
The 36th Society for Judgment and Decision Making Annual Conference, Chicago, IL	2015
The 4th International Conference on Algorithmic Decision Theory, Lexington, KY	2015
Theories and Methods in Judgment and Decision Making Research Summer School, Mannheim, Germany	2015

Skills

Programming: Stata, R, Python, Julia, MATLAB, LaTeX

Language: Chinese (native), English (fluent)