

Patrick Vu
www.patrickhvu.com
patrick_vu@brown.edu
Phone: 415-231-9543
Citizenship: Australian

BROWN UNIVERSITY

Placement Director: Toru Kitagawa	toru.kitagawa@brown.edu	401-863-3688
Graduate Administrator: Angelica Spertini	angelica.spertini@brown.edu	401-863-2465

References

Groos Family Assistant Professor **Jonathan Roth**
Department of Economics, Brown University
jonathan.roth@brown.edu

Professor **Toru Kitagawa**
Department of Economics, Brown University
toru.kitagawa@brown.edu

Professor **Peter Hull**
Department of Economics, Brown University
peter.hull@brown.edu

EDUCATION

Brown University Ph.D. in Economics	Providence, USA 2019 –present
Oxford University Masters of Philosophy in Economics	Oxford, England 2017 –2019
University of Western Australia Economics (First Class Honours) and Music Exchange: Maastricht School of Business and Economics	Perth, Australia 2014

TEACHING AND RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary fields: Econometrics
Secondary fields: Development Economics

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- | | |
|---|------------|
| • Graduate Program in Development Fellowship, The Watson Institute, Brown University | 2021 –2022 |
| • Reserve Bank of Australia Cadetship Award, Reserve Bank of Australia | 2013 |
| • C.A Vargovic Memorial Scholarship, University of Western Australia, Business School | 2013 |
| • Matariki Undergraduate Research Scholarship, University of Western Australia | 2012 |
| • Wesley Mission Music Scholarship, University of Western Australia, School of Music | 2011 |

JOB MARKET PAPER

[“Can Clustering Exacerbate Publication Bias?”](#)

Presentations: 2023 Econometrics Society North American Summer Meeting; 2023 MAER-Net Colloquium

Over the past several decades, econometrics research has devoted substantial efforts to improving the credibility of standard errors. This paper studies how such improvements interact with the selective publication process to affect the ultimate credibility of published studies. I show that adopting improved but enlarged standard errors for individual studies can lead to higher bias in the studies selected for publication. Intuitively, this is because increasing standard errors raises the bar on statistical significance, which exacerbates publication bias. Nevertheless, I show that the coverage of published confidence intervals unambiguously improves. I illustrate these phenomena using newly collected data on the adoption of clustered standard errors in the difference-in-differences literature between 2000 and 2009. Clustering is associated with a near doubling in the magnitude of published effect sizes. I estimate a model of the publication process and find that clustering led to large improvements in coverage but also sizeable increases in bias. To examine the overall impact on evidenced-based policy, I develop a model of a policymaker who uses information from published studies to inform policy decisions and overestimates the precision of estimates when standard errors are unclustered. I find that clustering lowers minimax regret when policymakers exhibit sufficiently high loss aversion for mistakenly implementing an ineffective or harmful policy.

WORKING PAPERS

[“Why Are Replication Rates So Low?”](#) 2023. *Under Review*

Presentations: 2023 Econometrics Society Australasian Meeting; 2022 AIMOS conference; University College London

[“Do Content Warnings Help People Spot a Deepfake? Evidence from Two Experiments”](#) (with Andrew Lewis, Raymond M. Duch and Areeq Chowdhury), 2023. *Revised and Resubmitted, Royal Society Open Science*

PUBLISHED PAPERS

[“Gender Inequality in Education and Kinship Norms in India”](#) (with Anu Rammohan), *Feminist Economics*, 2018, 24(1): 142–167

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

[“Optimal Publication Rules for Evidence-Based Policy”](#) (with Toru Kitagawa)

[“How Do Individuals Learn? Evidence from Rwanda”](#) (with Aislinn Bohren and Daniel Björkegren)

[“Pollution Externalities and Environmental Adaptation: Evidence from Vietnam”](#) (with Michael Neubauer)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

Brown University Research Assistant for Toru Kitagawa and Daniel Björkegren	Providence, RI 2020–2023
Oxford University Research Assistant for Sophocles Mavroeidis	Oxford, England 2018
The Reserve Bank of Australia Economist (Overseas Economies, Domestic Financial Markets)	Sydney, Australia 2014–2017
University of Western Australia Research Assistant for Anu Rammohan	Perth, Australia 2013–2014

TEACHING

University of New South Wales Teaching Assistant for Denzil Fiebig in Introductory Econometrics	Sydney, Australia 2017
Macquarie University Teaching Assistant for Roselyne Joyeux	Sydney, Australia 2017
University of Western Australia Teaching Assistant for Microeconomics II, Macroeconomics II, and Monetary Economics	Perth, Australia 2012–2014

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS (INCLUDING UPCOMING)

2023: Brown University, Econometrics Society North American Summer Meeting, Econometrics Society Australian Meeting, Applied Young Economists Webinar (Monash University), Meta-Analysis in Economic Research Colloquium, University of Canterbury Meta Seminar

2022: Brown University, University College London, Royal Society, Association for Interdisciplinary Metaresearch & Open Science Conference