Patrick Vu

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BROWN UNIVERSITY

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References

Groos Family Assistant Professor Jonathan Roth Department of Economics, Brown University jonathan_roth@brown.edu Professor **Toru Kitagawa**Department of Economics, Brown University
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Professor Peter Hull
Department of Economics, Brown University
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EDUCATION

Brown UniversityProvidence, USAPh.D. in Economics2019 -presentOxford UniversityOxford, EnglandMasters of Philosophy in Economics2017 -2019University of Western AustraliaPerth, AustraliaEconomics (First Class Honours) and Music2014Exchange: Maastricht School of Business and Economics

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

How Do Standard Error Corrections Interact With Publication Bias?

Econometrics research has devoted substantial efforts to improving the credibility of standard errors. This paper examines how standard error corrections interact with the selective publication process to affect the statistical credibility of published studies. Theoretically, I show that adopting improved but enlarged standard errors at the individual-study level can exacerbate bias in published studies at the aggregate level. Intuitively, this is because increasing standard errors effectively raises the statistical significance threshold commonly required for publication. Nevertheless, I show that coverage in published studies unambiguously improves. I empirically investigate these phenomena using newly collected data on the adoption of clustered standard errors in the difference-in-differences literature between 2000 and 2009. Clustering was 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 implications of clustering on evidenced-based policy, I develop a model of a policymaker who uses information from published studies to inform policy decisions, but who 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

"Do Content Warnings Help People Spot a Deepfake? Evidence from Two Experiments" (with Andrew Lewis, Raymond M. Duch and Areeq Chowdhury), 2023. Revise and Resubmit

Published Papers

"Gender Inequality in Education and Kinship Norms in India" (with Anu Rammohan), Feminist Economics, 2018, 24(1): 142-167

Research in Progress

"Evidence-Based Policy Choice with Publication Bias" (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 Providence, RI

Research Assistant for Toru Kitagawa and Daniel Björkegren 2020–2023

Oxford University Oxford, England

Research Assistant for Sophocles Mavroeidis 2018

The Reserve Bank of Australia Sydney, Australia

Economist (Overseas Economies, Domestic Financial Markets) 2014–2017

University of Western Australia Perth, Australia

Research Assistant for Anu Rammohan 2013–2014

TEACHING

University of New South Wales Sydney, Australia

Teaching Assistant for Denzil Fiebig in Introductory Econometrics 2017

Macquarie University Sydney, Australia

Teaching Assistant for Roselyne Joyeux 2017

University of Western Australia Perth, Australia

Teaching Assistant for Micreconomics II, Macroeconomics II, and Monetary Economics 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