

Qi Wu

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1513 Hasbrouck Apartments, Ithaca, NY, 14850

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Cornell University, May 2021 (expected)

MA., Economics, Cornell University, December 2018

MA., Applied Economics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, May 2015

B.S., Economics, Renmin University of China (RUC), June 2013

REFERENCES

Panle Jia Barwick (Chair)	Eleonora Patacchini	Benjamin Leyden
Professor	Professor	Assistant Professor
Cornell University	Cornell University	Cornell University
pjb298@cornell.edu	ep454@cornell.edu	leyden@cornell.edu
(607) 255-4867	(607) 255-1981	(607) 255-4649

RESEARCH FIELDS

Empirical Industrial Organization, Social Network, Labor Economics

WORKING PAPERS

“Peer Effects in Product Choice and Market Competition: Evidence from a Mobile Communication Network” (Job Market Paper)

This paper investigates whether and how peer influence in product choices affects product competition and product quality distribution in the Chinese smartphone market. Using a large-scale mobile-call network, I observe variations in peers' smartphone ownership. I exploit the inter-temporal variation in friend circles to construct individual taste controls to partial out unobserved preferences. In addition, I use the partially non-overlapping structure of friends and residential neighbors to construct instrumental variables to identify the causal influence of peers. I find that having one additional friend using a given product leads to a 10 percent increase in the average choice probability. Consumers are more likely to conform to affluent friends and choose products that are distinct in visible features, suggesting that the peer influence is motivated by conformity and status-seeking. Using a structural demand model, I show that peer effects intensify product competition and favor middle-quality products, while pushing extra-low-quality products to smaller shares.

“Information, Mobile Communication Patterns and Social Referrals” with Panle Jia Barwick, Yanyan Liu and Eleonora Patacchini, 2019, NBER working paper 25873. Under review.

We use the universe of de-identified and geocoded cellphone records for over a million individuals from a major Chinese telecommunication provider to examine the role of information exchange in urban labor markets. We find that information flows, as measured by call volume, correlates strongly with worker flows, a pattern that persists at different levels of geographic aggregation. Conditional on information flow, socioeconomic diversity of the social contacts, especially that associated with the working population, helps to predict the worker flows. We supplement the phone records with administrative data on firm attributes and auxiliary data on job postings and residential housing prices. Referred jobs are associated with higher monetary gains, a higher likelihood to transition from part-time to full-time, reduced commuting time, and a higher probability of entering desirable jobs. Referral information is more valuable for young workers, people switching jobs from suburbs to the inner city, and those changing their industrial sectors. Firms receiving referrals are associated with more successful recruits and faster growth.

“Parental Retirement and Adult Children Labor Supply: Evidence From China” with Xin Gao, 2019, funded by Small Grant in Labor Economics, Cornell University

Aging and increasing retired population is a global challenge. Retirement affects economic behaviors of the entire household, including consumption, health outcome, and time use. This paper studies the effects of parental retirement on adult children's labor supply, both through intergenerational time transfer (elderly care and child care) and through household income effects. We apply a regression discontinuity approach to China Family Panel Studies (CFPS), using the retirement age eligibility as the cut-off point. Our findings suggest that parental retirement reduces adult children's annual working hours by 3-5 percent, which is primarily driven by females. Due to self-rated health concerns, parents require more time and care from children. Although adult children tend to increase both monetary and time transfer to parents, parents are disproportionately making transfers to sons and daughters. Daughters are more likely to make transfers to parents after retirement while sons are getting more help and support from sons. Finally, it helps to provide policy insights on pension, formal care infrastructures, and intra-household gender inequality for countries like China facing increasing aging populations.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Introductory Macroeconomics, ECON 1120, Prof. Jennifer Wissink	Fall 2018; Spring 2019
Teaching Assistant, Intermediate Microeconomics, PAM 2000, Prof. Thomas Evans	Spring 2018
Teaching Assistant, Introductory Microeconomics, ECON 1110, Prof. Nicolas Sanders	Fall 2017; Fall 2016

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Sage Fellowship (Dissertation), Spring 2020 – Fall 2020
CV Starr Fellowship, Fall 2019
Small Grant in Labor Economics, 2019
Sage Fellowship, Fall 2015- Spring 2016

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Co-organizer, Labor Work in Progress Seminar, Cornell University, 2017-2018
Mentor, Graduate Student Association for Economics Mentorship Program, Cornell University, 2017-2020

SKILLS & OTHERS

Computer Skills: Stata, R, LaTeX, Matlab, Excel, PowerPoint
Languages: Chinese (native); English (fluent)