

Rachel Y. L. Fung

ylfung@princeton.edu ◦ www.rachelylfung.com ◦ 609-933-6907

Placement Director	Owen Zidar	ozidar@princeton.edu	609-258-2791
Graduate Administrator	Laura Hedden	lhedden@princeton.edu	609-258-4006

Office Contact Information

Louis A. Simpson International Building
Industrial Relations Section
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ 08544

Graduate Studies

Princeton University	2018-present
PhD Candidate in Economics	
Dissertation: <i>“Essays on Gender and Policy”</i>	
Expected Completion Date: June 2024	

REFERENCES

Professor Leah Platt Boustan Department of Economics Princeton University 609-258-7116 lboustan@princeton.edu	Professor Ilyana Kuziemko Department of Economics Princeton University 609-258-8276 kuziemko@princeton.edu	Professor Janet Currie Department of Economics Princeton University 609-258-7393 jcurrie@princeton.edu
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Prior Education

The London School of Economics and Political Science	2017-2018
MSc in Econometrics and Mathematical Economics, <i>Distinction</i>	
The London School of Economics and Political Science	2014-2017
BSc in Econometrics and Mathematical Economics, <i>First Class Honours</i>	

Fields

PRIMARY Labor Economics, Public Economics

Job Market Paper

“The Power of Tubal Sterilization: Permanent Contraception and Female Labor Supply.” 2023.

Tubal sterilization procedures increased dramatically in the U.S. in the 1970s, quickly becoming the most popular form of contraception among married women. This method of permanent contraception affords women almost perfect control over the end of their fertility. This paper studies how this development affected fertility and female labor supply. I show that women more likely to have had a tubal sterilization at childbirth were less likely to have a subsequent birth. The increase in tubal sterilizations between 1965 and 1985 accounts for over 12% of the reduction in third and later births, and reduced women’s age at last birth by 1.6 years. As women spend less years of their lives on childbearing, female labor force participation increased. I also find suggestive evidence that women select more into occupations that reward experience and tenure, consistent with the reliability of tubal sterilization reducing the risk of pregnancies and career interruptions.

Working Papers

1. “Welfare Reform and Fertility.” 2022.

This paper studies the fertility effects of 1990s-era welfare reform in the US, which ended unconditional cash assistance to low-income mothers. I show that individuals more likely to be on welfare pre-reform and thus more likely to be affected experienced larger fertility declines after the reform relative to those less likely. Moreover, this effect is larger in states with more generous pre-reform welfare payments. A back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests that welfare reform in the 1990s may explain over 24% of the decline in overall U.S. fertility between 1992 and 2000. These results have implications for current debates on reinstituting unconditional cash benefits through the Child Tax Credit.

Work in Progress

1. “Heterogenous Effects of Reproductive Policies.”
2. “The Effect of Mandated HIV/AIDS Education on Fertility and Marriage.” With Jessica Min.

Research Experience

Research Assistant to Professors Natalie Bau and Adrien Matray	2019-2020
Research Assistant to Professor Maria Micaela Sviatschi	2019

Teaching Experience

<i>Princeton</i>	ECO 981 Junior Independent Work (TA, 2023-2024)
	ECO 313 Econometric Applications (TA, Spring 2023)
	ECO 312 Econometrics: A Mathematical Approach (TA, Fall 2020, Spring 2022)
	ECO 302 Econometrics (TA, Spring 2021, Fall 2021)
	ECO 331 Economics of the Labor Market (TA, Fall 2020, Fall 2021)
<i>LSE</i>	EC210 Macroeconomic Principles (TA, 2017-2018)

Professional Activities

Refereeing

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics

Fellowships and Awards

Clarence J. Hicks Memorial Fellowship, Princeton University	2023-2024
NBER Gender in the Economy Fellowship Runner-up	2023-2024
Graduate Student Fellow, Griswold Center for Economic Policy Studies	2022-2023
Graduate Student Teaching Prize, Department of Economics, Princeton University	2022
J. Edward Lundy *40 Fellowship for Economics, Princeton University	2018-2019
Centaline Charity Fund Scholarship	2015-2018

Languages

Cantonese Chinese (Native), English (Native), Mandarin Chinese (Native)

Last updated: September 2023