

Rachel Y. L. Fung

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Office Contact Information

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Industrial Relations Section
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Graduate Studies

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| 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

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| 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. “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

Princeton 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)

LSE EC210 Macroeconomic Principles (TA, 2017-2018)

Professional Activities

Refereeing

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics

Fellowships and Awards

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| 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