Ming Ge

University of Massachusetts Amherst
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RESEARCH INTEREST

Industrial Organization, Applied Econometrics, Experimental and Behavioral Economics

EDUCATION

The University of Massachusetts - Amherst   Amherst, MA
Ph.D. in Resource Economics (Co-advisors: Dr. Christian Rojas and Dr. Rong Rong)   *Expected 2023*
Graduate Certificate in Statistical and Computational Data Science   *Expected 2023*

Weber State University   Ogden, UT
B.S. in International Economics, magna cum laude   *2015*

WORKING PAPERS

It Takes Two Hands to Clap: The Effects of Reputation and Search in Healthcare Markets

Job Market Paper

Asymmetric information between physicians and patients often leads to rampant overtreatment and low market efficiency. A standard reputation system falls short from being effective given the credence good nature of this market: Patients cannot tell whether a major treatment recommendation (versus a less costly and complex treatment) is necessary even after the service is completed thereby creating substantial incentives for physicians to overtreat. I propose a new solution to this problem by combining two important market mechanisms: patients' search and a physician reputation system. The key insight is that second opinions can help keep physicians' honesty in check thereby facilitating reputation-building in a repeated interactions setting. I test this mechanism in a laboratory experiment and confirm its effectiveness in reducing overtreatment. Additionally, I manipulate search cost and examine its impact on overtreatment. I find that search cost matters as it limits the role of second opinions and, as a consequence, the accumulation of physician reputation is much slower in the high search cost condition. The results highlight that accessibility to patient search may contribute to more equitable access to healthcare.

Does More Information Lead to Less Overtreatment and Less Search?

Motivated by newly emerged public information that keeps track of the quantities of services that sellers have provided, I experimentally investigate whether more information available to buyers improves seller honesty (in term of overtreatment) and buyer trust (in terms of costly search) in repeated interactions. I show that more information disclosed makes sellers' decisions closer to each other. Moreover, it slightly improves buyer trust in their sellers and reduces the search rate of second opinions. However, additional buyer information does not necessarily reduce the level of overtreatment or boost market efficiency in the repeated seller-buyer interaction.

What Drives Soaring Wholesale Electricity Prices During Nuclear Refueling Outage?

(With Xiaolin Zhou)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Learning game theory by gaming: a laboratory evaluation, Data Collection Complete, with Rong Rong

Professional Experience

Research Assistant

RA for Dr. Christian Rojas (Hatch Research Project, USDA), Summer 2020, Summer 2021

RA for Dr. Rong Rong and Dr. Sherry Gao (Preference, Belief and Flu Shot Decisions Project, UMass Amherst), 2017-2019

RA for Dr. Rong Rong, Dr. Matthew Gnagey and Dr. Therese Grijalva (Interpersonal Discounting in Households Project,WSU), 2016

Instructor (Avg. Rating: 4.5 out of 5)

Intro to Statistics for Social Science (Undergraduate level GenEd course - ResEcon 212), Summer 2022

Teaching Assistant

Intro to Statistics for Social Science (ResEcon 212) - Lead Teaching Assistant, Fall 2019 - Fall 2022

Managerial Economics (ResEcon 428), Spring 2019

Financial Analysis for Consumers and Firms (ResEcon 314), Fall 2018

Conference Presentations

World Economic Science Association Conference (Boston, MA)	2022
New England Experimental Economics Workshop (Amherst, MA)	2022
Annual UMass ResEcon Graduate Conference (Amherst, MA)	2018-2022
IFREE Graduate Student Workshop in Experimental Economics (Attendee, Chapman University)	2019
30th Anniversary National Conference on Undergraduate Research (Asheville, NC)	2016
12th Weber State University Undergraduate Research Symposium (Ogden, UT)	2016

Skills

Software: Stata, Python, Matlab, R, LaTeX, Z-Tree, Qualtrics

Language: Chinese (Native), English (Fluent)

Honors and Fellowships

The University of Massachusetts - Amherst

The Graduate School

Research Enhancement and Leadership (REAL) Fellowship, 2017-2022

Graduate Fellows Travel Grant, 2022

Graduate School Research Grant, 2020-2021

Department of Resource Economics

Carolyn Harper Research Fellowship, 2022

Graduate Student Travel Funds, 2022

Resource Econ GOF Scholarship, 2019

Weber State University

Outstanding Graduate for Economics, 2015-2016

Departmental Honors in International Economics, 2015

Excellence in Community Engagement Award, 2015

References

Christian Rojas	Rong Rong	John Spraggon
Professor	Associate Professor	Department Chair & Professor
Department of Resource Economics	Department of Resource Economics	Department of Resource Economics
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