

# Wei Yang Tham

---

CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Economics The Ohio State University 410 Arps Hall 1945 North High Street Columbus, Ohio 43210	Phone: (832) 248-2134 <a href="mailto:weiyang.tham@gmail.com">weiyang.tham@gmail.com</a> <a href="https://wytham.rbind.io">https://wytham.rbind.io</a>
CITIZENSHIP	Singapore	
EDUCATION	Ph.D. in Economics, The Ohio State University M.A. in Economics, The Ohio State University B.A. in Economics, Rice University	Expected June 2019 June 2014 June 2013
SKILLS	R, Git, Stata, SQL, MATLAB	
PRIMARY FIELDS	Labor Economics, Economics of Science and Innovation	
SECONDARY FIELDS	Public Economics, Urban Economics, Applied Econometrics, Big Data	
JOB MARKET PAPER	Science, Interrupted: Budget Uncertainty and Its Effects on Innovation  In recent years, the U.S. federal budget has been a major source of uncertainty, which potentially impedes economic activity. This uncertainty can induce federal agencies to delay spending till later in the fiscal year. Businesses that rely on public funding may have their funding stream interrupted as a result. I study the effect of funding interruptions on one particular type of economic activity - research - for which exceptionally rich transaction-level data is available. I find that researchers respond to the uncertainty from funding interruptions by spending less in the months leading up to the expiry of funding. Spending is substantially lower in the first month after funding resumes but recovers within 2 months, suggesting that interruptions have a disruptive effect on research even when funds become available. These findings suggest that in addition to the quality of projects, agencies should take into account the continuity of funding when they make research awards.	
RESEARCH IN PROGRESS	The Effect of Temporary Colocation on Knowledge Flows: Evidence from NIH Study Sections  Short-term interactions between people are thought to play an important role in overcoming frictions to knowledge diffusion. I estimate the effect of temporary colocation on knowledge flows using a setting where colocation is plausibly exogenous. I define a pair of scientists to be colocated if they serve together as grant reviewers on an NIH study section. Using variation in the timing of when reviewers serve on a study section, I find that short-term interactions lead to an increase in citations between pairs of scientists. The effect persists up to 10 years after the scientists' initial meeting and increases with the number of interactions that they had. This suggests that familiarity with, and not just awareness of, another scientist is an important factor in knowledge diffusion.	

The Effect of Targeted Increases in Science Funding: Stem Cell Research in California  
(w/ Joseph Staudt)

To what extent can policy influence the volume and direction of research? We address this question using a policy experiment in California. In 2004, California allocated \$3 billion over 10 years towards stem cell research in response to federal funding restrictions. We evaluate the effects of this policy using the synthetic control method and find that California produced 20% more stem cell-related publications than a control state following the policy's implementation. Using citation- and text-based metrics, we find little evidence of a change in the quality of the average California publication. However, the increase in research volume alone increased California involvement at the frontier of stem cell research.

WHITE PAPER	Measuring Innovation in Science (NBER-IFS White Papers on the Value of Medical Research)	
	I provide an overview of recent efforts to measure outcomes such as scientific novelty and impact using citation networks and text analysis.	
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Department of Economics, The Ohio State University	
	ECON 2367.02 Economic Issues in the United States Independent Instructor	Fall 2017
	ECON 2002.01 Principles of Macroeconomics Teaching Assistant	Fall 2016
	ECON 2001.01 Principles of Microeconomics Teaching Assistant	Fall 2014
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	Research Assistant for Bruce Weinberg and David Blau, The Ohio State University	Spring 2015 - present
GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS	Pre-doctoral Fellow, NBER-IFS Value of Health Research Network University Fellowship, Graduate School at The Ohio State University	2017 2013-2014
PRESENTATIONS	Department of Economics, SUNY Albany (scheduled) Census AIRis Brown Bag (scheduled) 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Urban Economics Association Value of Medical Research Network Meeting Value of Medical Research Pre-Doctoral Meeting Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) Annual Meeting (poster) Midwest Economics Association Conference Value of Medical Research Pre-Doctoral Meeting	2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2017
LANGUAGES	English (native), Chinese (fluent)	

REFERENCES

Professor Bruce A. Weinberg  
Department of Economics  
The Ohio State University

Phone: (614) 292-5642  
E-mail: [weinberg.27@osu.edu](mailto:weinberg.27@osu.edu)

Professor David M. Blau  
Department of Economics  
The Ohio State University

Phone: (614) 292-2009  
E-mail: [blau.12@osu.edu](mailto:blau.12@osu.edu)

Professor Kurt J. Lavetti  
Department of Economics  
The Ohio State University

Phone: (614) 292-2009  
E-mail: [blau.12@osu.edu](mailto:blau.12@osu.edu)