

YIQU LIU

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Economics 2020 - 2025
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL
Research Field: Applied Micro-econometrics; Health Economics; Public Economics

Master of Science, Policy Economics 2018 - 2020
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL

Bachelor of Economics, Finance 2014 - 2018
Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, Wuhan, China

JOB MARKET PAPER

Equally Married, Equally Benefited: Same-sex Marriage, Health Insurance, Labor Market, and Social Security

Abstract: This paper examines the impact of federal recognition of same-sex marriage (SSM) in the United States on health insurance coverage, labor market participation, and social security benefits for same-sex couples. Utilizing detailed microdata from the American Community Survey (2008-2019), I present the first comprehensive evidence on the effects of the 2013 Supreme Court ruling in *United States v. Windsor*, which federally recognized SSM. Findings indicate that in states where SSM was legal, federal recognition led to a 2.6% increase in health insurance enrollment, primarily driven by a 5% rise in employer-sponsored insurance (ESI). Additionally, social security incomes increased. Surprisingly, in states where SSM was not yet legal, same-sex couples experienced a 6.6% increase in health insurance coverage and a 7% increase in ESI coverage. Labor market analyses reveal that same-sex couples also increased their labor supply, evidenced by reduced unemployment rates and increased weekly working hours. Further heterogeneity tests suggest that these gains in insurance coverage were largely due to obtaining ESI through a spouse's employment. Overall, my findings underscore that federal recognition of SSM not only boosted health insurance uptake but also had spillover effects in states without legalized SSM.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Mental Health Effect of the COVID Citywide Lockdown: A Double ML Estimation

Abstract: This paper contributes to the growing literature studying the mental health outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic, and offers further empirical evidence of the negative mental health impact of citywide lockdowns by studying the lockdown happened in Shanghai, People's Republic of China during April, and May 2022. Both my baseline OLS and Double Machine Learning (DML) estimation show that Baidu searches among locked down Shanghai residents of keywords including "depression" and "anxiety" statistically significantly increased during the citywide lockdown. Baidu searches on "suicide" shows mixed results, indicating potential heterogeneity among residents.

The Impact of Medicaid Expansion on Health Insurance Coverage and Health Outcome

Abstract: The Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010 expanded the eligibility of Medicaid, which proves to significantly promote insurance coverage. This paper focuses on the dynamic effect of the change in policy using a staggered Differences-in-differences method, as well as the heterogeneous responses from groups that implemented the expansion later in time. I documented additional evidence that the ACA expansion on Medicaid eligibility increased the health insurance take-up rate by at least 6.7%, and the effects are persistent over a longer period. At the same time, later expansion states exhibited smaller increases.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Referee for *Environmental Research Letters*

CONFERENCE/SEMINAR PRESENTATIONSS

5*Applied Micro Research Lunch, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2022 - 2024
5*Job Market Research Seminar, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2023 - 2024
The 12th Annual Midwest Graduate Student Summit on Applied Economics, Regional and Urban Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2019

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant 2019 - 2024
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent By Their Students (Spring 2024)
Intermediate Macroeconomics (Undergraduate, Fall 2024)
Macroeconomic Principles (Undergraduate, Fall 2020 - Spring 2024)
Microeconomics (Graduate, Spring 2019 - Fall 2019)
Strategic Innovation (Graduate, Fall 2018 - Spring 2019)

HONORS AND CERTIFICATIONS

The Omicron Delta Epsilon International Honor Society in Economics

IBM Data Science Professional Certificate

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Language
English (Fluent), Mandarin Chinese (Native)

Skill
STATA, Python, SQL, L^AT_EX, SPSS

REFERENCES

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