Yushang Wei

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EDUCATION

University at Buffalo, SUNY — Aug 2018 – Present
Ph.D. Economics (June 2024 expected) — New York, USA

University at Buffalo, SUNY — Aug 2018 – June 2020
M.S. Economics — New York, USA

Purdue University — Aug 2013 – June 2018
Bachelor of Science - Applied Mathematics and Economics (double major) — Indiana, USA

AREA OF INTERESTS

Research: Health Economics; Transportation Economics; Development Economics; Labor Economics; Applied Microeconomics
Teaching: Micro & Macro Economics; Development; Transportation; Health; Econometrics

WORKING PAPERS

Job Market Paper: "Can High-speed Rail Improve Middle-aged and Elderly People's Mental Health? Evidence from China"
Working Paper: "Road Infrastructure in China: Assessing the Impact on Foreign Direct Investment and Economic Growth"

WORKING IN PROGRESS

"Do College Graduates Serving as Village Officials Help Local Health level"
"Public Transportation and Fertility Choice"

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Instructor – Univeristy at Buffalo, SUNY — ***Summer 2022 , Summer 2023***
ECO 181: Introduction to Macroeconomics

Graduate Teaching Assistant – Univeristy at Buffalo, SUNY — ***Aug 2018 - Present***

ECO 182: Introduction to Microeconomics	*Spring 2021, Spring 2023*
ECO 181: Introduction to Macroeconomics	*Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2022*
ECO 411: Health Economics	*Fall 2022*
ECO 480/580: Econometrics 1	*Spring 2019, Fall 2022*
ECO 461: Econ. Forecasting and Fluctuations	*Spring 2021*
ECO 581: Econometrics 2	*Spring 2020*
ECO 380: Economic Statistics and Data Analysis	*Fall 2019*
ECO 551: Mathematics for Economists	*Fall 2018*

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

Western Economic Association 98th Annual Conference, San Diego CA	*Paper Accepted, July 2023*
American Society of Health Economists Conference, St.Louis MO	*Paper Accepted, June 2023*
2022 APPMAM Fall Research Conference, Washington DC	*Attendee, Nov 2022*
Difference-in-Difference with Panel Data by Jeffrey M. Wooldridge	*Dec, 2022*
ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods	*Summer 2021*
ICPSR Short Workshops	*Summer 2021*

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Teaching Assistant Fellowship, University at Buffalo(SUNY)	*2018 - Present*
Graduate Tuition Scholarship, University at Buffalo(SUNY)	*2018 - Present*
Purdue Moves Summer/Short Term Study Abroad Scholarship, Purdue University	Summer 2016

WORKING PAPER ABSTRACTS

"Can High-speed Rail Improve Middle-aged and Elderly People's Mental Health? Evidence from China" – *Job Market Paper*

Abstract: This paper studies the effects of high-speed rail service on the mental health of middle-aged and elderly people aged 45 years or older. However, OLS comparisons between treated and untreated locations are unlikely to consistently estimate the causal effect of the high-speed rail improvement because the selection of locations into the treatment group is non-random. Therefore, I collected and restored the railway map at the end of the Qing dynasty by ArcGIS Pro. Using the unique historical geographic data as the instrument in high-speed rail networks, I found that high-speed rail service could increase the mental score of middle-aged and elderly people by around 1.5 points. The paper also examines the mechanisms through which high-speed rail improves the mental health of middle-aged and elderly people. There are three potential channels of influence: income effect, resource effect, and family effect. In particular, the findings suggest that high-speed rail could increase meeting frequency with their children, which reduces loneliness. However, high-speed rail service also increases the mental health gap between urban and rural areas.

"Road Infrastructure in China: Assessing the Impact on Foreign Direct Investment and Economic Growth" – *Working Paper*

Abstract: Using a panel of Chinese cities over the period 1999 - 2018, I examine the determinants of economic growth, focusing on the role of foreign direct investment (FDI) and road infrastructure. Consistent with the predictions of a human capital-augmented Solow model, I find that FDI has a positive effect on the per capita GDP growth rate and this effect is intensified by the road infrastructure of the city. The latter suggests that one way that road infrastructure contributes to growth is to serve as a facilitator for technology transfers stemming from FDI. The findings suggest the FDI-road infrastructure complementary effect is stronger for technology-intensive FDI than for labor-intensive FDI. The results are robust to alternative model specifications and estimation methods.

PROGRAMMING SKILLS

Stata, ArcGIS Pro, Python, LaTeX

MISCELLANEOUS

Languages: English (Fluent), Chinese (Native)
Citizenship: Chinese (US visa status: F-1)

REFERENCE

Zhiqiang Liu (Chair)
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Clinical Assistant Professor
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