

JIAQI ZOU

Nov 2021

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CANADA

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Citizenship: Canadian

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Toronto <i>Committee:</i> Loren Brandt (supervisor), Kory Kroft, Román Andrés Zárate	2022 (Expected)
M.A. in Economics, University of Toronto	2013
B.Com. in Finance, Queen's School of Business, Queen's University	2012

Research Interests

Empirical Micro: Public Policy, Labor, Behavioral Economics, Education, Health

Research in Progress

Is Marriage A Normal Good? Evidence from NBA drafts (*Job Market Paper*), 2021.
Impostor's Syndrome & Overconfidence: Evidence from world-class athletes.
Learning in the Information Age: the Experts, the Enthusiasts, and the Amateurs.
Are China's "leftover women" really leftover? An investigation of marriage market penalties in modern-day China (with Loren Brandt, Hongbin Li, and Laura Turner), Working Paper, 2018.

Awards & Grants

Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)	2020-2022
University of Toronto Doctoral Fellowship	2013-2018
University of Toronto Master's Fellowship (Doctoral-stream)	2012-2013

Experience

Course Instructor , University of Toronto ECO206: Microeconomic Theory	Summer 2017
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Teaching Assistant, University of Toronto

2012-present

Microeconomics

PPG1002: (Master's) Microeconomics for Policy Analysis at the School of Public Policy & Governance (2016-2017), Lead TA

ECO204: Microeconomic Theory for Rotman Business School (2018-2019), Lead TA

ECO206: Microeconomic Theory (2018-2019, 2020-present), Lead TA

Econometrics

ECO220: Quantitative Methods in Economics (2019-2020), Lead TA

Field Courses

ECO435/2738: Growth and Development of the Chinese Economy (2017, 2018, 2019),
Lead TA

ECO435: Growth and Development of the Chinese Economy at University of Toronto
Mississauga (2016-2018), Writing TA

ECO344: Labor Economics and Market Frictions at University of Toronto Mississauga
(2016-2017), Lead TA

ECO336: Public Economics at University of Toronto Mississauga (2016-2017), Writing TA

ECO324: Economic Development (2017-2018), Lead TA

Macroeconomics

ECO407: Critical Analysis of Competing Views in Macroeconomic Theory and Policy
(2014-2015), Lead TA

ECO365: International Monetary Economics for UTM (Summer 2019, 2020)

ECO209: Macroeconomic Theory and Policy for Rotman Business School (2012-2018),
Lead TA

ECO202: Macroeconomic Theory (Summer 2018)

Research Assistant

Prof. Michael Baker, Janet Currie, Hannes Schwandt (Research Data Center) 2016-2018

Editor/Copyeditor

2016-present

Copyedit academic papers for errors, terminology choice, clarity, and intuition flow (Full list of 84 academic papers for 23 professors and 16 PhD students available upon request).

Microeconomic Theory

Prof. Marcin Peřski, University of Toronto (2016-present)

Prof. Colin Stewart, University of Toronto (2016-2018)

Prof. Xianwen Shi, University of Toronto (2017)

Applied Micro & Experiments

Prof. Shannon Liu, Rotman Business School (2021-present)

Prof. Sandro Ambuehl, Rotman Business School (2016-2019)

Econometrics

Prof. Yao Luo, University of Toronto (2018-present)

Prof. Zhe Yuan, Shanghai School of Economics and Finance (2016-present)

Statistics

Prof Bin Li, University of Waterloo (2018-present)

Macroeconomics

Prof. Chaoran Chen, York University (2017-present)

Prof. Xiaodong Zhu, University of Toronto (2020-present)

Invited Conference Presentations

2018: Canadian Economics Association (CEA) Annual Conference (Montreal, Canada);
Asia Meeting of the Econometric Society (Seoul, Korea)

2017: Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) Annual Conference (Raleigh, NC)*

2016: Asian Family In Transition (AFIT) Conference (Hong Kong)*

* presentation by co-author

Languages

English (native), Mandarin Chinese (native), French (intermediate), Korean (elementary),
German (beginner)

Programming & Software: LaTeX, STATA, MATLAB, Python, Microsoft Excel

References

Loren Brandt

Professor; Noranda Chair

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Kory Kroft

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Personal

Outside of economics, I enjoy jogging, playing piano, learning languages, listening to educational podcasts, dabbling in home décor, and cat-sitting.

Abstracts

Is Marriage A Normal Good? Evidence from NBA drafts (Job Market Paper)

Despite globally declining marriage rates in recent decades, little is known about whether improvements in male economic status increase marriage. This paper tackles lack of data on unanticipated *permanent* income shocks for men by examining a natural experiment surrounding the NBA's annual player drafts. I exploit two institutional features: well-defined initial salaries decreasing monotonically by draft order and high-quality draft predictions that inform player expectations. To isolate the causal effect of male earnings on marriage outcomes, I show that disparities between predicted and actual draft order exogenously shift player salaries. This setup provides novel income treatments that are not only large and individual-specific but also opportunistically occurring early in career and adult life, when marriage decisions are particularly salient. I construct a new dataset tracking players' major family decisions and am the first to show men are indeed more likely to marry when their earnings increase, despite modern-day normalization of cohabitation. For the 2004-2013 draft cohorts, a 10% increase in initial five-year salary raises likelihood of marriage by 8.9%. Further evidence suggests my results constitute *lower-bound* estimates for general population men, as effect sizes are larger and more significant for lower expected salaries.

Are China's "Leftover Women" really leftover? An investigation of marriage market penalties in modern-day China (with Loren Brandt, Hongbin Li, and Laura Turner)

A recent trend in Korea and Japan sees college-graduate women marrying later and at lower rates than less-educated women. In China, "leftover women" have also become a top policy concern. This paper finds, however, that China's higher-educated urban women attain marital outcomes more similar to those in the US than in other Asian Tiger countries: marrying later, but ultimately at rates comparable to those of less-educated women. Furthermore, for 1990-2009, we quantify marriage quality using the classic Choo-Siow (2006) estimator and find large returns to marrying later but minimal direct higher-education effects. Using the Choo (2015) dynamic estimator, we project future marriage rates to remain stable among the higher-educated and decline for lower-educated women.