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EMPLOYMENT

Sep. 2020- Economist, Human Development Practice Group, The World Bank

EDUCATION

2020 Ph.D. in Economics, University of Michigan
2015 M.A. in Economics, University of Michigan
2013 B.A. in Economics and B.S. in Statistics, Peking University

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: Labor Economics, Family Economics

Secondary: Development Economics, Health Economics

WORKING PAPERS

1. “Prep School for Poor Kids: The Long-Run Impact of Head Start on Human Capital and Economic Self-sufficiency,” with Martha Bailey and Brenden Timpe. 2020.
conditionally accepted, *American Economic Review*.

This paper evaluates the long-run effects of Head Start using large-scale, restricted 2000-2018 Census-ACS data linked to the SSA’s Numident file, which contains exact date and county of birth. Using the county rollout of Head Start between 1965 and 1980 and age-eligibility cutoffs for school entry, we find that Head Start generated large increases in adult human capital and economic self-sufficiency, including a 0.65-year increase in schooling, a 2.7-percent increase in high-school completion, an 8.5-percent increase in college enrollment, and a 39-percent increase in college completion. These estimates imply sizable, long-term returns to public investments in large-scale preschool programs.

2. “Less is More: How Family Size in Childhood Affects Long-Run Human Capital and Economic Opportunity.” 2020.

This paper examines the impact of family size on children’s long-term wellbeing. The number of siblings is a prominent aspect of childhood family environments that affects parental time and resource investments. Leveraging temporal and county-level variation in access to abortion in the United States during the 1970s, my research design contrasts adult outcomes of children born just before an abortion clinic opened with adult outcomes in counties in which abortion remained difficult to obtain. The results suggest that access to abortion decreases the completed number of younger siblings. As their parents avoided unplanned children and achieved smaller family sizes, the children experienced significant improvements in their long-run outcomes, including increased educational attainment, greater labor-force participation, and higher neighborhood quality. The effects are larger in areas with greater exposure to safety net programs. These findings imply large, persistent returns to reproductive health policies that promote smaller families.

PUBLICATION

“Birth Order and Unwanted Fertility,” with Wanchuan Lin and Juan Pantano.
Journal of Population Economics, 33(2), 413–440, 2020.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Department of Economics Fellowship (2020)
 Rackham One-Term Dissertation Fellowship (2019)
 James Morgan Innovation in the Analysis of Economic Behavior Fund (2018)
 Department of Economics Travel Award (2018)
 Feuerwerker Fellowship for Conference Travel Funding (2018, 2017)
 George Katona Economic Behavior Research Award (2017)
 Rackham International Research Award (2017)
 Rackham Graduate School Travel Grant (2017, 2016)
 Best Graduate Student Instructors, Department of Economics (2016)
 MITRE Graduate Research Award (2016)
 Summer Research Award (2015, 2014)
 Outstanding Graduates, School of Economics, Peking University (2013)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Presentations:

2020 Peking University, H2D2 Research Day (Ann Arbor, MI), University of Nottingham, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Peking University HSBC Business School.
 2019 European Meeting of the Econometric Society (Manchester), WEAI Graduate Student Workshop (San Francisco, CA), SOLE Annual Meeting (Arlington, VA), PAA Annual Meeting (Austin, TX), MEA Annual Meeting (St. Louis, MO).
 2018 European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society (Naples), SEA Annual Meeting (Washington, DC), North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society (Davis, CA), WEAI Annual Conference (Vancouver), CES North American Conference (Athens, GA), NBER Children’s Program Spring Meeting (co-author, Cambridge, MA).
 2017 SEA Annual Meeting (Tampa, FL), China Meeting of the Econometric Society (Wuhan), Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society (Hong Kong), MEA Annual Meeting (Cincinnati, OH).
 2015-16 CES North American Conference (Sacramento, CA), CEAR-HCEO-MOVE Workshop on Family Economics (co-author, Barcelona).

Refereeing: *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Social Science Research*

Special Sworn Status, US Census Bureau (2016-Present)