

ZE SONG

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Rutgers University	2022 (Expected)
M.A. in Economics, The University of Texas at Austin	2016
B.A. in Mathematics and Economics, Shandong University, China	2015

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: Public Economics, Health Economics
Secondary: Applied Econometrics

JOB MARKET PAPER

[The Impact of Corporate Taxes on Healthcare Investment and Medicare Spending: Evidence from the Dialysis Industry](#)

Abstract: Medicare expenditures and their growth vary dramatically across regions. Could differences in corporate taxes contribute to this geographic variation? This paper exploits differences in state corporate tax rates to study the investment decisions of chain dialysis providers and their impact on local Medicare expenditures. I focus on chain dialysis providers as they have increasingly become the dominant providers of dialysis services, and recent research has demonstrated that they have higher Medicare charges per patient than independent dialysis providers. I find that a one percent decrease in a state's corporate income tax rate leads to a 0.3 to 0.4 percent increase in the number of chain-owned facilities per county in the state. Adding one chain-owned dialysis facility per county results in an additional \$110 in Medicare drug payments per patient per year. This represents a four percent increase in average per capita drug payments and is driven by the greater use of reimbursed drugs by chain-owned facilities. Overall, my results suggest that state corporate taxes influence federal Medicare liability through the provision of health care services at the state level.

WORKING PAPER

Long Term Health Effects of the Earned Income Tax Credit (R&R at National Tax Journal)

Abstract: I examine the impact of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) expansions in utero and during childhood on health outcomes in adulthood using variation in the federal and state EITC. My estimates suggest that EITC expansions positively impact self-reported health status and other health measures. The favorable health outcomes are associated with increases in both family income and maternal labor supply. I find that the competing time substitution and income effects of labor supply due to credit expansions have different relative impacts at different ages, creating a "U-shaped" overall health impact of the credit. In addition, child-parent interaction plays an essential role in transforming the income and time inputs into later life health outcomes.

WORK IN PROGRESS

The EITC and Divorced Mothers: Less Child Support and Delaying Remarriage to Find a Quality Spouse

(with Jacob Bastian)

Abstract: This paper explores the impact of the EITC on divorced mothers. Using datasets from CPS-Child Support Supplements and the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), we find that a one thousand

dollar increase in the maximum EITC exposure decreases the child support payment due to a family by approximately three percent. There is a more significant crowd-out effect of EITC exposure on the amount of child support received by the eligible families (eight percent). In addition, EITC exposure reduces the number of marriages and delays the time of getting remarried, which leads to potentially higher spouse education and wage salary.

OTHER RESEARCH

Infrastructure, Economic Growth, and Poverty: A Review (submitted)

(with Govinda Timilsina and Gal Hochman)

World Bank Policy Research Working Paper Number 9258, 2020

Short abstract: We review the literature on the relationship between infrastructure investment, economic growth, and poverty alleviation. We find no consensus among existing studies on the relationship between public investment and growth. Studies that investigate the relationship between physical infrastructure and growth mostly support a positive relationship as do studies that look at the relationship between physical infrastructure and income inequality. We highlight the need for further research on these relationships.

The Potential Economic Feasibility of Direct Electrochemical Nitrogen Reduction as a Route to Ammonia

(with Gal Hochman et al.)

ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering, 2020, 8, 8938-8948

Short abstract: We show that under certain scenarios, at achievable levels of energy efficiency with a future electrocatalyst, direct nitrogen reduction would be economically competitive or advantageous compared with Haber-Bosch-based ammonia production.

Insights into Competition in the Electricity Market: Evidence from the RGGI (working paper)

(with Gal Hochman)

Short abstract: We examine the effect of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) on electricity prices. We find that following the announcement of the RGGI in 2005, wholesale electricity prices did not increase. However, coinciding with electricity market restructuring, retail electricity prices increased by 25 percent. Excluding the restructuring impact, retail prices in RGGI states increased by about 12.5 percent, albeit only temporary.

Infrastructure and Income Distribution: Evidence from Global Policy Uncertainty (work in progress)

(with Govinda Timilsina and Gal Hochman)

Short abstract: We address the endogeneity problem in studying the distributional impact of physical infrastructure. We employ country-specific policy uncertainty, such as natural disasters and terrorist attacks, as an exogenous shock to investment in physical infrastructure, identifying the causal impact of physical infrastructure on income distribution.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Health Economics, *Instructor*

Summer 2019, Summer 2020

Intermediate Microeconomics, *Teaching assistant*

Fall 2017, Fall 2019, Spring 2020

Advanced Cross-sectional and Panel Econometrics, *Teaching assistant*

Fall 2018

WORK EXPERIENCE

World Bank Short-Term Consultant

2020-2021

Research Assistant for Prof. Anne Piehl, Rutgers University

2020-2021

Research Assistant for Prof. Jacob Bastian, Rutgers University 2020
Research Assistant for Prof. Gal Hochman, Rutgers University 2017-2020

HONORS AND AWARDS

Peter Asch Memorial Scholarship for Outstanding Research in Applied Microeconomics 2021
Monroe Berkowitz Memorial Award for Outstanding Dissertation Work in Social Policy 2020
Sidney I. Simon Prize for Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching 2020
NAREA Best Student Conference Paper Award 2019
Sidney I. Simon Research Award for Best Second Year Paper (*Honorable Mention*) 2018
TA-GA Professional Development Fund 2017

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

Rutgers University Empirical Microeconomics Seminar 2021
National Tax Association Annual Conference 2020, 2021
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting 2020
ASSA Annual Meeting (*Poster Session*) 2020
Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association 2019

INVITED WORKSHOP/CONFERENCES

NBER Business Taxation in a Federal System 2020, 2021
NBER Graduate Student Workshop on Business Income Taxation 2020

PERSONAL

Citizenship: China

US status: F-1 Visa (eligible to work for 3 years without sponsorship)

Languages: Mandarin (native), English (fluent)

Programming: Stata (high), GAUSS (med), SAS (basic), Python (basic), R (med), LATEX (high)

REFERENCES

Carolyn Moehling (Co-Chair)
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