

Yuhao Yang

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, USA

- Ph.D. in Economics Aug 2016 – Present
 - Research Interests: labor economics, development economics and applied econometrics
- B.A. in Economics and Mathematics, minor Statistics Jan 2012 – Dec 2015
 - Magna Cum Laude (Top 7%)
 - High Distinction of Mathematics Department

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, USA

- Research Assistant for Professor Russell Weinstein Aug 2017 – Present
- Teaching Assistant of Economic Statistics II Jan 2020 – May 2020

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, USA

- Dean's List, Fall 2012 through Fall 2015 Aug 2012 – Dec 2015
- Member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Sep 2015
Rank Top 10%
- High Distinction, Department of Mathematics Dec 2015
- Departmental Fellowship, Department of Economics Aug 2016 – May 2017
Full-tuition Waiver with Stipend for Doctoral Studies.
- Research Assistantship, Department of Economics Aug 2017 – May 2021
- Travel Grant, Department of Economics Apr 2018
- Research Assistantship (Summer), Department of Economics Summer 2019, Summer 2020

RESEARCH

Working Papers

- Do Universities Improve Local Economic Resilience? (IZA Discussion Paper), With Greg Howard and Russell Weinstein
Abstract: We use a novel identification strategy to investigate whether regional universities make their local economies more resilient to adverse economic shocks. Our strategy is based on state governments assigning normal schools (to train teachers) and insane asylums to counties between 1830 and 1930. Normal schools later became much larger regional universities while asylum properties mostly continue as small state-owned psychiatric health facilities. Because site selection criteria were similar for these two types of institutions, comparing counties assigned a normal school versus an insane asylum identifies the effect of a regional university. We find that having a regional university roughly offset the negative effects of exposure to manufacturing declines, and we attribute a significant share of this resilience to the resilience of regional public university spending.

Presentation: 2021 Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting (presented by co-author), Urban Economics Association European Meetings (presented by co-author)

- The Effect of College Opening on Local Crime—Evidence from United States, solo authored
Abstract: This paper utilizes nation-wide variation in college construction to study whether the opening of a college reduces local violent and property crime. To address the endogeneity of college location, I employ event study, difference-in-difference, and instrumental variable strategies. The estimates indicate that opening a new college in the metropolitan CZ may reduce violent crime by 14 percent and property crime by 7.9 percent in the short run. In the long run, college openings likely account for a 3.6 percent reduction in violent crime and a 0.9 percent reduction in property crime in the non-metropolitan CZs. The improved local socioeconomic conditions likely explain the decline in property crime, while the decline in violent crime is attributable to an intergenerational channel. This study complements the literature by providing the first evidence of the effects of college opening on local crime and the mechanisms behind these effects.

Work in Progress

- Gender Identity and Relative Age in Marriage (IZA Conference Paper), with Mark Borgschulte

Abstract: We provide evidence of an “older husband-younger wife” social norm in the marriage market. The penalty for violating the norm is increasing in the wife’s relative age, leading to a kink in the distribution of age gaps between husbands and wives. We use a regression kink estimator to describe the distribution of relative marital ages that arises as a consequence of the norm. Three main sets of results emerge. First, we document that the norm appears, to varying degrees, in almost all countries across the world, in historical data, and in new marriages throughout the life cycle in the United States. Second, in households that violate the norm, we show wives are relatively more educated than their husbands, work more hours, and have fewer children at age 40. As a consequence, the gender gap in labor income is \$7000 smaller in households where the wife is one year older than her husband compared to households with equal ages or a slightly older husband. We then embed our estimates in a marriage matching model. Transfers seem to flow from wives to husbands, implying that men experience a relatively larger utility loss due to violating the norm, and are compensated by transfers from their wives.

Presentation: 2019 4th IZA Junior/Senior Symposium (presented by co-author), 2019 Norms and Behavioral Change Workshop

- Government Manufacturing investment and Long-run Economic Development: Evidence From “Construction of Third-front” in China, with Xin Wang
- Air Pollution on Mental Health of the Elderly Population, with Luoye Chen and Jian Zou

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Econometric Game 2018, Amsterdam, Netherlands

- Team Member of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Apr 2018
Invited to Econometric Game 2018 at University of Amsterdam as one of thirty teams around the world.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, USA

- Oral Interpreter and Translator Jun 2018 – Jul 2019
Provide consecutive oral interpretation and written translation for academic lectures at Global Education and Training Department.

CERTIFICATES

- Coursera: Applied Machine Learning in Python
Credential ID: PAKM9S5CGX5U
- Coursera: Applied Text Mining in Python
Credential ID: NJSGX3C653TM
- Coursera: Introduction to Data Science in Python
Credential ID: ZC4XR8MWVF4V
- Free Code Camp: Data Analysis With Python

SKILLS

L^AT_EX, STATA(Econometrics), Python(Pandas, applied machine learning, web scrape).

LANGUAGES

- Chinese: Native
- English: Fluent.

[CV last updated on 2021-06-27]