Adelina Yanyue Wang

Curriculum Vita

Education

Ph.D. Economics, Stanford University, 2015 – present

Courses Completed:

- First year: Micro (I, II, III), Macro (I, II, III), Econometrics (I, II, III)
- Field classes: Public (I, II), Labor (I, II), IO (I, II, III), Advanced Empirical Corporate Finance, Machine Learning and Causal Inference, European Economic History

B.A. Applied Mathematics, B.A. Economics, UC Berkeley, 2011 – 2014

Highest Honors in Economics, Highest Distinction in General Scholarship

Employment

Department of Economics, Stanford University, 2016 – present

Research Assistant to Professor Mark Duggan

Department of Economics, UC Berkeley, 2013 – 2015

Research Assistant to Professor Ulrike Malmendier

Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley, 2013

Research Assistant to Professor Robert H. Edelstein

Working Papers

"The Impact of Managed Care for the Disabled: Evidence from California's Medicaid Program" (with Mark Duggan and Craig Garthwaite)

"The Economic Impact of Health Care Quality" (with Anne-Line Koch Helsø and Nicola Pierri)

Fellowships and Awards

Thomas Parry Research Fellowship, Integrated Benefits Institute, 2018

Arnold Foundation Graduate Fellowship, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, 2017 – 2018

Phi Beta Kappa, Robert and Colleen Haas Scholar, CAA Leadership Award, 2011 – 2014

Stanford | Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR)

Mark G. Duggan
The Trione Director of SIEPR and
The Wayne and Jodi Cooperman
Professor of Economics

September 23, 2018

Dear Selection Committee,

I am delighted to write to you on behalf of Adelina Yanyue Wang, a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Economics at Stanford University, who is applying for participation in the NBER Health Economics Research Boot Camp. I have gotten to know Adelina well during the past 2+ years since she worked as my research assistant during her second year of graduate school. We have been working together since then (with Craig Garthwaite) on a project examining the impact of Medicaid managed care. I have also spoken with her frequently about her own projects, including a co-authored paper investigating the effects of hospitalizations on future incomes and how these effects vary across hospitals.

For our Medicaid managed care project, Adelina, Craig, and I are exploring the effects of mandates implemented from 2011-12 in more than a dozen large counties in the state of California that required seniors and individuals with disabilities enrolled in Medicaid (called Medi-Cal in California) to switch from traditional fee-for-service (FFS) Medicaid into managed care plans. While these same counties had previously required most children and non-disabled, non-elderly adults to switch into managed care plans, this more recent shift was noteworthy given the high utilization and generally worse health of the newly affected Medicaid recipients. We are using administrative data from the state's Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) that includes detailed information about the universe of hospital discharges and emergency room visits from all non-federal hospitals in California during the 2008 through 2016 period. We just last week obtained approval from the state's Vital Statistics division to link individual-level mortality data so that – even if individuals die outside of the hospital – we will soon be able to detect it in our data.

Adelina's contribution to this project has been very substantial. She started up by researching and carefully summarizing the literature on Medicaid managed care (MMC) specifically and government contracting more generally. She then looked into the institutional details about California's recent MMC reforms and discovered that counties gradually transitioned Medicaid recipients into MMC plans as a function of their month of birth. Turning to the OSHPD data, Adelina confirmed that the shift happened as called for in the legislation, so that those born in June were transitioned a month earlier than those born in July and so forth. This discovery by Adelina has become our primary source of identification to estimate the causal impact of MMC on the utilization of medical care and on health outcomes.

Adelina has worked closely with Craig and me on determining how optimally to select our analysis sample, whether to include counties that did not shift their Medicaid recipients into MMC plans, and related details. Once we had decided on a plan for our sample and for our estimation strategy, Adelina worked very hard to master the data so that she could implement it. She consistently exceeded our expectations for how much she could produce in a given amount of time. In our weekly conference calls, Adelina has been summarizing the results of her most recent analyses while flagging things that seemed problematic in either the data or with the empirical results. It has truly been a pleasure to work with her because she is deeply interested in the topic and clearly thoroughly enjoys the research process.

In another project jointly authored with two other PhD students, Adelina has been investigating the effect of hospital admissions on individuals' earnings a la Dobkin et al (AER 2018). For this project, Adelina and her co-authors are using administrative data from Denmark that includes all hospital admissions along with

individual-level earnings data. They are exploring whether the earnings effects of hospital admissions appear to vary across hospitals in a way that is related to other measures of hospital quality. They have made very significant progress on this project with very little guidance from faculty and Adelina recently did an excellent job of presenting it to their fellow graduate students and several applied micro faculty here.

Adelina has other projects as well, including a potential job market paper on whether to use mandated employer benefits or tax-financed government programs for social insurance programs with universal eligibility. This project is earlier stage but she has been making good progress on it in recent months.

I am optimistic that Adelina will during the rest of her time in the PhD program here (another 2-3 years) build on her very impressive body of research in the areas of health economics, public economics, and labor economics. I do think that this boot camp would be an excellent way for her to learn from an outstanding set of scholars with broad expertise and interests while connecting with fellow graduate students from other institutions too. She is eager to expand her skill set to include both structural and reduced-form approaches and consistently aims to connect her empirical work with a theoretical model. This boot camp would almost certainly catalyze new potential projects and allow her to network with many other outstanding graduate students with similar interests. She is also very smart and one of the hardest-working graduate students whom I have ever encountered and so I was thrilled when she won a dissertation fellowship from the Arnold Foundation last year to focus on her own research.

To sum up, I think that Adelina Yanyue Wang is an outstanding candidate for the NBER Health Economics Research Boot Camp and am therefore pleased to endorse her application in the absolute strongest possible terms. Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information and good luck in reaching your decisions about which students to select.

Sincerely,



Mark G. Duggan

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NBER Health Economics Research Boot Camp Application

Cover Letter

Dear Professor Handel, Professor Ho, and Professor Kolstad,

My name is Adelina Yanyue Wang and I am a fourth year Economics PhD student at Stanford University. I am writing to apply for the opportunity to attend the NBER Health Economics Research Boot Camp. Thank you very much for organizing the event and taking the time to review our applications. Please see the requested information below.

Contact information:
Email: adywang@stanford.edu
Phone: (510) 688 – 3369
Address: Department of Economics, Stanford University, 579 Serra Mall, Stanford, CA, 94305

Recommendation Letter Writer:
Professor Mark Duggan
Email: mgduggan@stanford.edu

Again, thank you so much for kindly considering my application and very much look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,
Adelina Yanyue Wang

Application Essay

I am excited and honored to apply for the opportunity to attend the NBER Health Economics Research Boot Camp. At the boot camp I hope to gain insights into different aspects of health economics research, learn cutting-edge research methodologies, and exchange ideas with faculty and other students.

My research interests are centered on ensuring equitable access to quality health care. I hope to use my research to evaluate disparity in existing health care systems and propose policy remedies to ensure that no one is denied quality health care because of their income, location of residence, mental and physical health condition, and cognitive ability to navigate through the hurdles in the system.

One goal I hope to achieve at the boot camp is to get deeper insight into topics I've been working on and getting feedback from the professors and other students on my existing projects. For example I am working on understanding how Medicaid managed care affect the health care utilization for the disabled by examining a recent MMC mandate in California. I look forward to discussing the project and related research on how market structure affect pricing and patient experience with Professors Dafny, Ho, and Van Reenan. Another project is on evaluating the heterogeneity in treatment quality across hospitals and time periods by estimating the impact of hospitalization on the patient's labor earnings in Denmark. I hope to learn more about the research on estimating the economic impact of health shocks and get feedback from Professor Finkelstein.

Moreover, I am eager to learn more about the frontier of existing research landscape for the preliminary projects that I am currently jump-starting and get suggestions at the critical stage of project development. I have just joined the research team with Zarek Brot-Goldberg, Tim Layton, and Boris Vabson for a project on understanding determinants of active choice in Medicare Part D for the LIS population. The institutional setting of Medicare and availability of new variables will allow us to tease apart inertia and switching cost. I hope to learn more about how behavioral economics are applied in health economics research, especially on plan choices and information frictions, from Professors Handel, Kolstad, and Schwartzstein. I have also been working on a project on understanding whether the government should implement universal coverage of social insurance through mandated employer benefits or tax-financed government provision. I hope to contribute to the existing literature by incorporating redistribution values in the discussion, and look forward to getting feedback and suggestions from Professors Gruber and Oster.

Furthermore, I am excited to learn about cutting-edge research in various topics and brainstorm new ideas. I am very much fascinated by the drastic changes in medical technology and health care systems enabled by AI and big data. I look forward to discussing their research on AI and wearable technologies with Professors Handel and Kolstad, and will be thrilled if I could foster collaborative bonds with the attendees of the boot camp and start new projects together.

It will be a great honor for me to get the opportunity to attend the boot camp and get inspired by the experts in health economics and my peers. I will make sure to contribute to the learning and discussions by preparing carefully and participating actively, and make the best use of the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills and connect with the vibrant research community.