Xincheng Qiu

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Education

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, University of Pennsylvania, in progress.

Lawrence Robbins Prize in Economics (*for the best first-year student*), 2018.

M.A. Economics (*with highest distinction*), Peking University, 2017.

B.A. Economics and B.S. Mathematics (*with highest distinction*), Peking University, 2015.

Coursework

Microeconomic Theory I & II, Macroeconomic Theory I & II, Econometrics I, II & III

Economics of Labor, Search Theory and Applications, Labor, Health & Family, Economic Growth

Empirical Industrial Organization, Public Economics, Quantitative Macroeconomic Theory

Ongoing Research

Research Interests: Labor and Firm Dynamics

Automation and Returns to Experience

"Golden Age": The Race Between Growth and Experience, with Hanming Fang

Private Investment and Industry Policy, with Chenyu Yang

Teaching Experience

Fall 2018, Microeconomic Theory (Graduate), T.A. and Recitation Instructor for Prof. Steven Matthews and Prof. Andrew Postlewaite.

Joel Popkin Graduate Student Teaching Prize in Economics, University of Pennsylvania, 2019.

Spring 2019, Economics of Education, T.A. for Prof. Francesco Agostinelli.

My interest in AI, and in particular, automation, started with a term paper in which I am trying to examine the implications of automation on experience wage profiles.

First, I set up a model to argue that automation generates a steeper experience wage profile. In a nutshell, the economy consists of task production with complementarity between experience and tasks, where the competitive equilibrium is characterized by an assortative matching of experience and task. Following Acemoglu and Restrepo (2019), I model automation as the process that tasks previously performed by labor are gradually taken by machines and this process starts with the low-end tasks. As automation is ongoing, workers are performing higher-indexed tasks, which in turn pushes up the experience wage profiles. This prediction addresses the finding in Lagakos et al. (2018) that the returns to experience in rich countries are higher in poor countries.

Next, I plan to exploit some reduced-form evidence. Islam et al. (2018) note that the service sector, cognitive occupations, urban areas, formal jobs exhibit higher experience wage profiles than the manufacturing sector, manual occupations, rural areas, and informal jobs, respectively. There are also variations in levels of automation in these dimensions. I will collect data on proxies for automation technologies to provide suggestive evidence.

References

Acemoglu, Daron, and Pascual Restrepo. 2019. "Automation and New Tasks: How Technology Displaces and Reinstates Labor." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 33(2): 3–30.

Islam, Asif, Remi Jedwab, Paul Romer, and Daniel Pereira. 2018. "The Sectoral and Spatial Allocation of Labor and Aggregate Returns to Experience."

Lagakos, David, Benjamin Moll, Tommaso Porzio, Nancy Qian, and Todd Schoellman. 2018. "Life Cycle Wage Growth across Countries." *Journal of Political Economy*, 126(2): 797–849.