Application for NBER Tutorial on the Economics of Digitization in 2020

Contact information

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Program: Ph.D. student in Economics

School affiliation: Oklahoma State University

Description of graduate studies:

Course pursued: Core economics courses include three semesters of microeconomics, three semesters of macroeconomics, and four semesters of econometrics. Field economics courses include urban and regional economics, international trade, and development economics.

Study fields: My major fields of study are urban and regional economics, labor economics. My minor fields of study are development economics and international trade.

Years of enrollment: I joined department of economics at Oklahoma State University in fall 2016. Until now, I have more than three years of enrollment at current institution.

Research Interests and Research Projects:

My major research fields are urban and regional economics, labor economics, and economics of education. My minor research fields are development economics and international trade. My first project is using 1970s' oil booms and 1980s' oil busts as a quasi-experimental design to investigate how the shocks affect college students' major choices. The main findings are oil booms in 1970s increased the probability that students studied in energy related majors like petroleum engineering and geology, and oil busts in 1980s decreased the probability that students studied in energy related majors. My second project uses China and India national representatives' data, using Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition, to explain the huge differences in female labor force participation between China and India. I find most differences between the two countries are explained by coefficients not by characteristics. My third project discusses the effects of industry heterogeneity in the speed of product obsolescence on the U.S. labor market. I

find products with medium life cycle length exhibit the highest labor demand in the U.S. and the effects are more prominent for high education workers.

I am also exploring another project related to shale boom and broadband. It is widely accepted that construction of broadband is not exogenous. It depends on many factors like population density and local economic development. Literature about the determinants of broadband construction is limited. In this project, I am using the recent shale booms as exogenous shocks to identify the causal relationship between the shale booms and broadband construction in the U.S. My knowledge on broadband is scant. The NBER digital economics workshop will be a great resource for me to learn the up-to-date research agenda and methods in digital economics including broadband related research.

My committee members consist Dr. Mehtabul Azam and Dr. Harounan Kazianga from Oklahoma State University, and Dr. John V. Winters from Iowa State University.