Jing Feng

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Education

The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
Ph.D. Economics — *2019 - Present*
M.A. Economics — *2020*
Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida
M.A. Economics GPA 4.0/4.0 — *2018*
Southern University of Science and Technology, Shenzhen, China
B.S. Finance, Summa Cum Laude — *2017*

Fields

Primary Fields: Applied Micro

Secondary Fields: Education, Political Economy

Research in Progress

"Do Better Political Connections Lead to More Public Amenities?"

This project plans to use the set up of China's primary land market to explore the question - Do better political connections lead to more public amenities? In the China's primary land market, the local governments are the sole seller, and the usage of the land parcel is predetermined by the government beforehand. Using a spatial matching approach, I hope to study after a politically connected firm purchases a land parcel, are they more likely to get a public amenity such as a park, a school or a medical center in the neighborhood? Could they be more likely to get a subway or bus stop built nearby after their purchase? Are they also less likely to have negative amenities such as public housing installed in their neighborhood?

"What is the Impact of Universal Pre-K on Educational Outcomes? Evidence from Georgia"

This study examines the impact of universal Pre-Kindergarten on long - term cognitive outcomes. A clear source of endogeneity has made this problem difficult to estimate, children who enroll in Pre-Kindergarten may come from wealthier families than children who do not. In 1995, Georgia made all four-year-old children eligible for state - funded Pre-Kindergarten. I exploit variation in a child's birthdate, which differentially impacted their ability to attend universal Pre-K. I plan to see if an additional year of Pre-Kindergarten results in an improvement in students' SAT scores. Furthermore, I plan to examine heterogeneous effects based on race, gender, and income.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, ECON 3820 Gender in Labor Market, OSU — *Spring 2021*
Teaching Assistant, ECON 2001 Principles of Microeconomics, OSU — *Autumn 2020*

Honors, Scholarships & Fellowships

University Fellowship, The Ohio State University — *Fall 2019, Spring 2020*
Exception Waiver, Florida State University — *Fall 2018, Spring 2019*
Mary Dunn Baker Scholarship, FSU — *Fall 2018, Spring 2019*
James H. Gapinski Award (for Best First Year Graduate Student), FSU — *Fall 2018*

Skills

Stata, R, ArcGIS, LaTeX, MATLAB

Key Coursework

Labor Economics I -III, Computational Economics, Panel Data, Machine Learning

I think combining machine learning with causal inference is the future for economics. Machine learning may be able to pick up some relationships between variables that traditional parametric or non-parametric models cannot. I am interested in machine learning and I have taken doctoral level machine learning courses in statistics department, I hope to learn more about how to apply machine learning techniques to economic studies. I read papers about how economists have combined machine learning and satellite images to look at local economic activities of developing countries and I find it fascinating. I hope I can learn more about it and use it for my own research!