Application for NBER Digital Economics and AI Tutorial

Meng Song

Contact Information

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Graduate Study

My name is Meng Song. I am a fourth-year Ph.D. student in Economics at the University of Connecticut. In addition to the standard core economics curriculum, my doctoral coursework has emphasized applied microeconomics with a focus on labor and education, applied econometrics, and policy evaluation. In parallel with my doctoral program, I am pursuing a Master's degree in Data Science at the University of Connecticut. Through this program, I have developed strong technical training in natural language processing, machine learning, and computational methods for analyzing unstructured and high dimensional data.

Research Interests and Projects

My research focuses on applied microeconomics, with particular emphasis on labor economics, health economics, and the economics of education. I am increasingly interested in exploring the intersection of artificial intelligence with economics and education, as well as broader questions in digital economics. My methodological approach incorporates natural language processing and machine learning techniques to analyze economic phenomena and policy questions in these domains.

My dissertation investigates the economic effects of workplace flexibility, educational policy, and technology adoption on labor market participation and human capital development. Specifically:

First essay (Labor Economics): "The Future of Work: Remote Opportunities and Female Labor Force Participation". This paper, currently under review at a top economics journal, examines the effects of expanded work-from-home opportunities on female labor market outcomes, leveraging MSA-level variation before and after the pandemic.

Second essay (Education): "How Does a Four-Day School Week Affect High School Students? Evidence from Colorado". Using comprehensive administrative data spanning nearly two decades and over one million student records from Colorado, this study provides large-scale causal evidence on four-day school week impacts. We find that four-day school weeks modestly improve test scores, reduce dropout rates, and increase graduation rates, with particularly strong effects for students exposed beginning in middle school.

Third essay (Education and AI): "The Impact of Mandatory Computer Science and AI Courses on Student Academic Performance, Career Choice, and Long-Term Labor Market Outcomes". This study uses administrative data to evaluate policies requiring computer science and artificial intelligence

coursework, examining effects on academic achievement, career trajectories, and subsequent labor market success.

Fourth essay (Behavioral Economics): "The Global Impacts of Climate Change on Risk Preferences". This paper studies the direct impacts that long-run experiences of climate change have on individual risk preferences.

Fifth essay (Education and Labor): "Career and Technical High Schools on Students' Program Choice and Labor Market Outcomes". Using individual student data from the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS), this study examines how career and technical education affects program choice, labor force participation, and earnings.

Additional Experience

Since 2023, I have served as a Quantitative Graduate Assistant at the UConn Center for Advancing Research, Methods, and Scholarship in Gun Injury Prevention (ARMS). In this role, I conduct research on gun injury and violence prevention using advanced econometric and statistical methods, manage large-scale datasets, and co-author academic papers and policy reports.

Committee Members

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