Liyi Liu

CONTACT INFORMATION:

7435 Sewell Social Science Building

1180 Observatory Dr, Madison, Wisconsin 53706

608-320-5856

Liyi.liu@wisc.edu

Website:http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~lliu26

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Public Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Health Economics

EDUCATION :

Ph.D. Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Expected: May 2017

M.S. Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, May 2015

B.A. Economics and Mathematics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, May 2012

WORK IN PROGRESS:

"Evaluating the impacts of social welfare programs on intergeneration transfers and consumption: The case of New Rural Pension Scheme in China", **Job Market Paper**

"Fertility behavior in US recent housing boom and bust period"

"The impact of health insurance on the elderly health and quality of life in rural area: Evidence from China's New Cooperative Medical Scheme"

RESEARCHING EXPERIENCE:

Project Assistant: Wisconsin Medicaid (Badgercare Plus) program evaluation, Population Health Department, Sep 2015 – now Working Projects:

①“Evaluation of Wisconsin’s Badgercare Plus health coverage for parents & caretakers adults and for childless adults”

② “Effects of implementing parity for mental health and substance use disorder services in Medicaid”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Primary TA: International Finance and Trade, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Spring 2015

Primary TA: Intermediate Microeconomics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Fall 2014

Teaching Assistant: Principles of Microeconomics, University of WisconsinMadison, Spring 2014

Teaching Assistant: Principles of Macroeconomics, University of WisconsinMadison, Fall 2013

AWARD:

Excellent Teaching Award by Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Spring 2015, Fall 2014, Spring 2014.

Honored Instructor by University Housing, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Spring 2014

Veldor Koptizke Scholarship, University of Wisconsin-Madison, May 2011

SOFTWARE:

Proficient in Stata, Excel, Matlab, SAS,LaTex

LANGUAGE:

English(fluent), Chinese (native)

References:

James Walker (Chair)
Department of Economics
University of Wisconsin – Madison
1180 Observatory Dr
Madison, WI 53706
Phone: 608-263-2783
Email: walker@ssc.wisc.edu

Christopher Taber
Department of Economics
University of Wisconsin – Madison
1180 Observatory Dr
Madison, WI 53706
Phone: 608-263-7791
Email: ctaber@ssc.wisc.edu

Jesse Gregory
Department of Economics
University of Wisconsin – Madison
1180 Observatory Dr
Madison, WI 53706
Phone: 608-890-4913
Email: jmgregory@ssc.wisc.edu

Marguerite Burns
Department of Population Health Sciences
University of Wisconsin – Madison
610 Walnut St
Madison, WI 53726
Phone: 608-265-5282
Email: meburns@wisc.edu

Research Statement

Liyi Liu

http://ssc.wisc.edu/~lliu26

I am a Ph.D. candidate at Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison. I consider myself to be an applied microeconomist with broad empirical interests and a focus on Public Economics, Health Economics, and Labor Economics. My current researches use rigorous empirical methods to study the household decision, especially how families react to policy and demographic changes. This research statement is organized as follows. The first part discusses three chapters of my dissertation in public economics and my current work on health care policy evaluation. The second part states my future research plan.

1. Current Research

1.1 Dissertation

The first chapter examines the effects of a new rural pension system (NRPS) on household expenditures and intergeneration transfer in China. Households consumptions do not increase for the pension participants, and intergeneration transfers are not crowding out by public pension income. The second chapter investigates the mechanism between housing price and fertility behavior in the recent housing boom and bust periods. Empirical results show that an increase in housing price decrease the probability of having new babies for renters, and the impact on homeowners is insignificant. The third chapter evaluates the effects of a new medical insurance program (NCMS) in rural China on the health status and living quality of the rural senior population. My results show that participating in medical insurance increase health outcome, and the poorer and elder population benefit most from the program.

1.2 Cooperated work

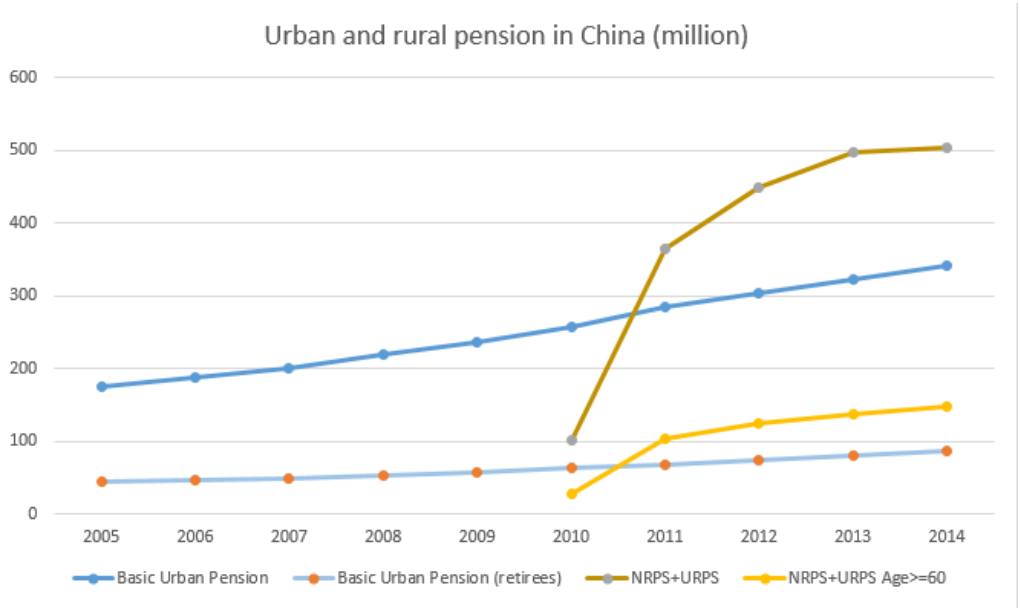
I am the project assistant in the Wisconsin Medicaid (Badgercare Plus) evaluation team in the Department of Population Health since September 2015. We combine

institutional knowledge of public health insurance expansions with applied econometric techniques to estimate these programs' effects on outcomes of interest and to more fully understand the mechanisms through which they operate. We conduct analysis using administrative data which includes enrollment and claims data, along with surveys and telephone interviews of current and former program members. For this 2016 evaluation, we test 17 hypotheses using empirical methods such as difference-in-difference, propensity score matching, regression discontinuity, and interrupted time series.

2. Future Research Plan

In my future research, I want to continue my work on evaluate the pension program in China. In addition to my research on the new rural pension system (NRPS), I am also interested in the Urban Residents Pension Scheme (URPS) which targets urban population with no retirement pension. I want to confirm its impacts on reducing poverty and inequality for old age population. The main goal of this paper is to compare the financial situations between rural and urban households, especially for the senior population who are most vulnerable to income shock. The major variables of interests are household consumption and savings for the households.

Figure 1 shows the total number of Basic Urban Pension, NRPS and URPS enrollees. The Basic Urban Pension is available to urban citizen who has worked full-time for government and private sectors. NRPS was introduced in rural area in 2009, and URPS was implemented in urban area in 2011.



I will use China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS) conducted by CCER of Peking University in China. It aims to collect a high quality nationally representative sample of Chinese residents ages 45 and older. The baseline national wave of CHARLS is being fielded in 2011 and includes about 10,000 households and 17,500 individuals in 150 counties/districts and 450 villages/resident committees. The national waves available are 2011 and 2013. To evaluate the pension programs, we will look at several indicators for poverty and inequality: consumption expenditure and savings of senior households.

I am going to use difference-in-difference as primary research method. I am going to use participants in the Basic Urban pension as control group. I am going to investigate the effects pension program on different subgroups. For example, compare the effects between high school graduates and non high school graduates. We should expect the two programs reducing inequality and poverty for senior population. They should depend less on their children financially, and the household expenditure should increase.

Department of Economics
1180 Observatory Dr.
Madison, WI 53706

November 15, 2016

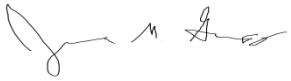
Dear Colleague,

I am writing to recommend **Liyi Liu** for a position in your department. I have talked with Liyi about her research regularly over the last three years, and I have seen her present several times in our student empirical micro workshop. She has written a nice job market paper on the short run incidence of a recent social security expansion in China, and I expect her to continue writing similar papers in the future.

Liyi's job market paper studies the short-run incidence of a new social security system in China (the New Rural Pension Scheme) by estimating its impact on recipients' consumption during retirement and on within-family transfers. As typically occurs with "pay-as-you-go" pension schemes, the first cohort of retirees essentially receives a "free lunch" financed through taxes on the first cohort of workers who pay into the system. The interesting question is the extent to which this transfer boosts that cohort's consumption during retirement as opposed to crowding out within-family transfers that would have otherwise occurred. Using a difference in differences research design, Liyi finds negligible impacts on retirement consumption, suggesting that the program substantially crowds out within-family support.

Liyi is smart and easy-going, and I believe she will make an excellent colleague. Also, in addition to her research, Liyi has a reputation as an excellent teacher. I recommend her to groups searching in applied micro, including teaching-focused departments that also value research.

Sincerely,



Jesse Gregory
Assistant Professor of Economics
University of Wisconsin - Madison

THE UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN MADISON

Department of Economics
1180 Observatory Dr
Madison WI, 53706

November 23, 2016

Dear Colleague,

It is my pleasure to recommend Liyi Liu for a position in your department. I first got to know Liyi in the spring of 2014 when she took my labor economics class. I am on her thesis committee. Liyi is a very hard worker with a very interesting dissertation. I recommend that you interview her.

I have talked a lot with Liyi about her job market paper, but am less familiar with her other work. Thus my letter focuses on her job market paper and I let his other letter writers discuss her other work. They also know her better than I do, so I would put more weight on their letters.

Her thesis breaks new ground by estimating the impact of an under-studied policy-the New Rural Pension Scheme. This is an extremely interesting program. Prior to 2009 there were no public pensions for rural residents. It is a voluntary program in which if people contribute for fifteen years prior to retirement age and then they can start drawing benefits at age 60. A distinguishing feature is that individuals who are 60 at the time the program is implemented can receive benefits as long as their eligible children participate in the program. If you are between 45 and 60 at the initial time you need to pay into the program each year and pay a lump sum. It is not a particularly generous program offering approximately 55 Yuan per month while the average monthly spending among older individuals in rural areas is approximately 200 Yuan.

The key to Liyi's identification strategy is that the program was implemented in different counties at different points in time. This allows her to use a "difference in difference" design with county dummy variables and time dummy variables. Since there is a strong tradition of the younger generation caring for the older generation in China, her main interests is examining the effect of the program on behavior of the family. She uses two different data sets looks at a number of different outcomes including a measure of self-sufficiency and transfers between generations. She does find an increase in self-sufficiency, some

mixed evidence that transfers from children to their parents falls, and little evidence on expenditures. This is a very nice paper.

Liyi has a nice combination of skills including communication skills and empirical skills. She is also extremely efficient being one of the very few empirical micro students able to graduate in five years (the only one of her cohort). I recommend that you interview her in Chicago.

Sincerely,



Christopher Taber
Walker Family Distinguished Chair in Economics
Department of Economics
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Reference letter for Liyi Liu, Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Economics
University of Wisconsin-Madison

I am pleased to provide a letter of reference for Liyi Liu. My assessment of Ms. Liu is based on my interactions with her as the Principal Investigator of a large Medicaid evaluation for which she serves as the graduate project assistant. Liyi joined our research team 15 months ago and quickly became an essential member. The goals of the study are twofold: to assess the effect of a premium increase and restrictive re-enrollment provision on entry, exit, and duration among transitional Medicaid beneficiaries; and to estimate the effects of an exogenous increase in covered health services on childless adults' health care use, expenditures and health. In addition to myself, our team is comprised of faculty in economics and health policy from Johns Hopkins and Texas A&M University, a database manager, and a project manager. The relatively flat organizational structure of our team requires a project assistant who can effectively work one-on-one with each faculty member, communicate with the team as a whole, and manage multiple requests from different individuals at the same time. Liyi has succeeded with grace, a positive attitude, and an outstanding work ethic.

Liyi is responsible for sophisticated manipulation of very large administrative and claims datasets, translating our analytic tasks into Stata syntax, implementing analyses, and reporting the results back to us in a user-friendly format. We meet weekly by conference call, and Liyi ably communicates in that setting as well as in regular email correspondence. Liyi's work is careful, detail-oriented, and very responsive to the idiosyncratic preferences of each team member. She reliably meets deadlines and asks for clarification or additional info when needed. Liyi is a delightful colleague.

In our research group, when we have a particularly impressive graduate assistant, we ask that she give us a recommendation for her successor before she graduates. We were fortunate enough to meet Liyi through this practice, and I will definitely ask her for her recommendation when she leaves us for her next adventure in May 2017.

I would be very happy to provide additional information in enthusiastic support of Liyi's professional advancement. I can be reached at 608-265-5282 or meburns@wisc.edu.

Sincerely,

Marguerite Burns, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Department of Population Health Sciences
University of Wisconsin-Madison