Linna Xu

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Education

Ph.D. in Economics, University at Albany, SUNY, May 2018 (expected)

M.A. in Economics, University at Albany, SUNY, December 2016

MBA, California State University, Chico, May 2012

B.A. in Economics, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China, July 2011

Research Fields

Health Economics, Applied Econometrics, Labor Economics, Public Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Public Policy

Publication/Working Papers

Keg registration laws, alcohol consumption and alcohol-involved fatalities among adolescents, 2015, *This paper was presented at APPAM and SEA 2016 fall conferences; Job market paper*

The effect of ride-sharing on risky behaviors and traffic fatalities: the case of Uber, 2017, *working in progress and will be presented at EEA 44th conference.*

Does ride-sharing economy increase underage drinking and smoking? 2017, *working in progress.*

Impact of ACA's dependent coverage mandate on health insurance and labor market outcomes among young adults: evidence from regression discontinuity design, 2016, *will be presented at EEA 44th conference; submitted to Eastern Economic Journal.*

Prevalence and Associated Factors of Alexithymia among Adult Prisoners in China: A Cross-sectional Study, 2016, (with Li Chen, et al.) *BMC Psychiatry 2017 August; Vol. 17 (1), pp. 287.*

Conferences/Seminar Presentations

Eastern Economic Association (EEA) 44th Annual Conference, Boston MA, March 2018, *paper presentation (scheduled)*

Southern Economic Association (SEA) 86th Annual Conference, Washington DC, November 2016, *paper presentation*

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference, Washington DC, November 2016, *paper presentation*

Economic Seminar of Economic Department at University at Albany, SUNY, Albany NY, December 2015, *paper presentation*

Professional Experiences

1. **Senior Research Analyst**, Office of Analytics and Decision Support, Excelsior College
   August 2017-present

   Conduct statistical, reproducible research and data analysis related to the College's mission using **R, SQL, relational databases, predictive modeling** and other advanced statistical methodology (e.g.: **machine learning, classification tree, propensity score matching, logistic regression**, etc.)

2. **Research and Data Analyst**, The Division of Managed Care, New York State Office of Mental Health
   January 2017-August 2017

   Analyzed Medicaid utilization and cost data based on **DOH eMedNY Medicaid Data Warehouse (MDW)**, inpatient and outpatient data to monitor and evaluate treatment performance of the implementation of Medicaid Managed Care Transition using **SAS and SQL**.

3. **Research Assistant**, Prof. Barış K. Yörük, Department of Economics, University at Albany, SUNY
   January 2015-present

   Extract, clean and merge **large cross-sectional and panel health survey and administrative data** with **STATA, R and SAS**.

   Build up advanced econometric and quantitative modellings to analyze research questions (e.g.: **fixed effect model, logistic regression, panel data analysis, simulation, bootstrapping, machine learning approach**, etc.)

   Draft academic research papers, present research findings in various academic conferences, and discuss results with professionals.

Teaching Experiences

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Economics, University at Albany, SUNY
August 2014-December 2016

   AECO 370 Labor Economics, Fall 2015, Fall 2016

   AECO 380 Industrial Organization, Spring 2016, Summer 2016

   AECO 330 Development of Economics, Summer 2015

   AECO 210 Tools of Economics, Fall 2014

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University at Albany, SUNY
August 2012-May 2014

   AECO 510 Macroeconomics, master level

   AECO 610 Advanced Macroeconomics I, Ph.D. level

   AECO 710 Advanced Macroeconomics II, Ph.D. level

Awards and Grants

Professional Development Grants, $475, Graduate Student Association, University at Albany, SUNY, February 2017.

Academic Development Grant, $210, Department of Economics, University at Albany, SUNY, November 2016.

Outstanding Performance on Preliminary Comprehensive Examination, Department of Economics, University at Albany, SUNY, September 2013.

Dean's Honor List, Business School, California State University, Chico, May 2012.

Award and Scholarship for Excellent Students, School of Economics, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China, September 2008.

Academic Memberships

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)
Southern Economic Association (SEA)
Eastern Economic Association (EEA)
American Economic Association (AEA)
American Society of Health Economists (AshEcon)

Research Tools/Skills

Computer: SAS (SAS Certified Advanced Programmer), STATA, R, SQL, Hyperion, Tableau, Toad, SQL Developer, Matlab, Eviews, SPSS, Latex, Microsoft office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).

Language: English (professional proficiency), Mandarin (native proficiency).

Certificate: SAS Certified Advanced Programmer, CFA I Candidate

References

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Dr. Rui Zhao
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Paper Abstracts (selected)

1. **Keg registration laws, alcohol consumption and alcohol-involved traffic fatalities among adolescents**, 2015, Job Market Paper (This paper was presented at APPAM and SEA 2016 fall conferences)

   This paper identifies the causal treatment effect of KR laws on underage alcohol consumption and related outcomes: alcohol-related traffic fatalities, by exploiting the substantial variations in

the timing of the introduction of these laws across different states at different times. To correct for selection bias and policy endogeneity problem, we matched our treatment samples with a comparable control samples using propensity score matching method and Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (YRBSS) 1993-2013. We complement our analysis by conducting difference-in-difference analysis and suggest that the introduction of the KR laws is associated with up to a 2.3 percentage point reduction in binge drinking among minors. This statistical significant reduction is mainly driven by male minors. Furthermore, using Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 1993-2013, we show that strict KR laws can significantly decrease the number of alcohol-involved traffic fatalities by 0.292 among 17 year-old minors and 0.319 among 15-17 year-old minors. Our results are robust to alternative model specifications.

2. **The effect of ride-sharing on risky behaviors and traffic fatalities: the case of Uber**, with Barış K. Yörük, 2017 (working in progress and will be presented at EEA 44th conference)

   During past few years, the ride-sharing company like Uber has become remarkably polarizing and is growing exponentially both in United States and all around the world. Uber has changed people's public transportation choices by launching a phone application that links individual's transportation needs with private drivers that offer riding services. Such wide availability and lower cost of Uber enable people to ask for riding services instead of taking the risk of drunk-driving after drinking. In this paper, we evaluate the treatment effects of this recent controversial debating public program, ride-sharing, on risky behaviors, and traffic fatalities by investigating Uber's expansion during 2010-2015 and exploiting the variations in Uber launch dates across different counties in United States. We firstly use synthetic control method with panel data on drinking and smoking outcomes from Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2008-2012 as well as county-level demographic characteristics to identify treatment effect of Uber launch on probabilities of drinking and smoking. We find little evidence that Uber launch increases people's intention to drinking, but slightly increases the probability of smoking in Uber counties. Furthermore, using different-in-difference methodology and a panel data constructed from Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2008-2015, we identify that the launch of Uber service is associated with 11.3 percentage points decrease in total fatality rate and 3.2 percentage points decrease in alcohol-involved traffic fatalities.

3. **Impact of ACA's dependent coverage mandate on health insurance and labor market outcomes among young adults: evidence from regression discontinuity design**, 2016 (will be presented at EEA 44th conference; submitted to Eastern Economic Journal)

   This paper identifies the effect of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA's) dependent coverage mandate on health insurance coverage, health insurance holding and labor market outcomes among young adults, by exploiting an exogenous variability in losing an additional access to health insurance coverage at age 26. To remedy the policy endogeneity problem in the literature, we exploit the discrete jump in health insurance coverage and labor market outcomes at age 26 using a fuzzy regression discontinuity design and Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) survey data panel 15 to panel 18. We find that ACA's dependent coverage mandate is associated with significant decrease in health insurance coverage at age 26 cutoff age. These results are quite robust to different alternative parametric and non-parametric model specifications. ACA's dependent coverage mandate also has spillover effects on labor market outcomes among young adults. Our results imply that it is associated with a decrease in the probability of employed by about 3.9 percentage points and a decrease in the probability of self-employment by about 1.8-2.6 percentage points when young adults turn to 26. Our results imply that "job lock" is not a significant and major problem in labor market of young adults but there might exist some moderate "entrepreneurship lock" among young adults.

Last updated: December 12, 2017