Zeyu Li (Peter)

Email: zeyu.li@uci.edu ◇ Tel: +1-(949)-396-5859
LinkedIn: lizeyuuci ◇ GitHub: peterlizeyu
Website: lizeyuecon.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, University of California, Irvine	*Expected 2025*
Research Fields: Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Urban Economics, Economics of Education	
M.S., Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison	*2017 - 2019*
B.A., Economics, Central University of Finance and Economics	*2013 - 2017*

SKILLS

Programming	R, Stata, Python, MATLAB, SQL
Tools	GitHub, VS Code, ArcGIS, LaTeX, Markdown
Methods	Panel Data Analysis, Difference-in-Differences, Synthetic Control, Instrumental Variables, Regression Discontinuity, Discrete Choice, Natural Experiment, Randomization, Machine Learning, Survey Design, Forecasting

PROJECTS

The Impacts of Foreign Roommates on Domestic Students' Outcomes (Job Market Paper)   *2023 - present*

- Estimated the causal effect of having international roommates on domestic students' outcomes utilizing a quasi-random roommate assignment system at a U.S. university. Found that male students exposed to international roommates are more likely to graduate with STEM degrees and pursue entrepreneurship
- Collected and merged data containing 8,000+ undergraduate students from administrative records and scrapped LinkedIn profiles. Surveyed 230+ students for belief and attitude measures. Utilized NLP (Continuous Bags of Words) model to predict occupation code to self-reported LinkedIn job descriptions
- Effectively presented findings at multiple conferences and seminars to both academics and non-academic audience

Evaluating California's Earned Income Tax Credit Program   *2022 - 2024*

- Co-authored a paper evaluating the employment and poverty-reducing effect of California's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program, applying the synthetic control method and the staggered triple difference estimator for causal inference
- Enhanced the DDD model with insufficient number of clusters by simulating and recalculating clustered standard errors using the Wild Bootstrap Randomization Inference method
- Found evidence suggesting that California's EITC, unlike other states' EITC credits, failed to boost employment for vulnarable groups due to its unique design and unintended interaction with the minimum wage

Machine Learning Approaches for Income Prediction   *2023*

- Implemented various machine learning models (e.g., linear regression, support vector regression, k-nearest neighbors, decision trees) using data from the Current Population Survey to predict individual income
- Applied dimensionality reduction techniques like Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and ensemble methods such as bagging to improve model performance and robustness
- Found that non-linear models and ensemble methods significantly reduce prediction errors compared to linear models, highlighting the potential of machine learning in income prediction and economic policy analysis

How Do Parents Choose Schools? Evidence from Choices and a Survey of Choosers   *2022*

- Studied factors influencing K-12 school choice, leveraging administrative data from the San Francisco Unified School District and surveys on over 1,000 parents whose children applied to 121 elementary and middle schools

- Utilized discrete choice logistic regressions (McFadden's choice model) and value-added models to estimate determinants of school choices. The results highlight that parents consider both academic and non-academic outcomes when choosing schools
- Employed Git for version control and collaborative coding, ensuring efficient project management and code integration

PUBLICATION

"Too Much of a Good Thing? How Narrow Targeting and Policy Interactions Influence Responses to California's EITC" (with David Neumark), Forthcoming at *Tax Policy and the Economy*

Media Coverage: *The New York Times*

California has the highest Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) supplement, but it does not improve employment outcomes for less-skilled single mothers, unlike other state EITCs. This is due to two factors: California's EITC phases out quickly after reaching the maximum credit, creating a higher marginal tax rate at lower income levels, and its high minimum wage limits additional earnings from working more hours under the EITC.

WORKING PAPERS

"Building Up and Boosting Productivity: Evidence from the Daylight Spacing Regulation in China"

[Art DeVany Prize for Best Graduate Poster Presentation, 2023]

I estimate the causal impact of urban density on productivity using a policy-implied spacing factor from China's building spacing regulations as an instrument. Results show that a 40% increase in population density raises wages, with significant benefits for the service sector and innovation.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assitant to Dr. David Neumark, UC Irvine	*2022 - present*
Research Assitant to Dr. Damon Clark, UC Irvine	*2022*
Research Assitant to Dr. Nancy Rodríguez, UC Irvine	*2021 - 2022*
Teaching Assistant, UC Irvine [*Honor: DTEI Fellowship for Teaching Excellency (2020)*]	*2019 - 2023*

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

2024: The Econometric Society European Winter Meeting, WEAI Annual Conference, All-California Labor Economics Conference, PPIC, CSULB, SOCAE, Applied Young Economists Webminar

2023: Urban Economics Association Summer School, UC Irvine Miniconference in Urban Economics, UC Irvine Applied Micro Workshop, UC Irvine Graduate Poster Session

2022: UC Irvine Applied Micro Workshop, UC Irvine Graduate Poster Session

2021: UC Irvine Graduate Poster Session

HONORS

UC Irvine: Graduate Completion Fellowship (2024), Art DeVany Prize for Best Graduate Poster Presentation (2023), Summer Research Fellowship (2021-2024), DTEI Fellowship for Teaching Excellency (2020)

UW-Madison: Best Master's Research Papers (2019), Graduate Research Scholarship (2018)

REFERENCES

Damon Clark (Chair)	**David Neumark** (Co-Chair)	**Jan Brueckner**
Associate Professor of Economics	Distinguished Professor of Economics	Professor of Economics
University of California, Irvine	University of California, Irvine	University of California, Irvine
949-824-2056	949-824-8496	949-824-0083
clarkd1@uci.edu	dneumark@uci.edu	jkbrueck@uci.edu