

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

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Curriculum Vitae
Fall 2019

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Citizenship: China (F-1 Visa)

Major Fields of Concentration

Macroeconomics, Labor Economics, Chinese Economy

Education

<i>Degree</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Year</i>
PhD	Economics	University of Minnesota (expected)	2020
BA	Economics and Mathematics	University of Notre Dame	2014

Dissertation

Title: "Essays on Education Policies"
 Dissertation Advisor: Professor Ellen McGrattan
 Expected Completion: Summer 2020

References

Professor Ellen McGrattan	(612) 625-6714 erm@umn.edu	Department of Economics University of Minnesota 4-101 Hanson Hall
Professor Anmol Bhandari	(612) 625-0511 bhandari@umn.edu	1925 Fourth Street South Minneapolis, MN 55455
Professor Joseph Mullins	(612) 625-7853 mullinsj@umn.edu	
Dr. Simran Sahi	(612) 626-6353 ssahi@umn.edu	

Teaching Experience

- 2017 - present *Instructor*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Taught *Principles of Microeconomics* and *Chinese Economy*.
- 2015 - 2017 *Teaching Assistant*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Led recitation sections for *Principles of Microeconomics* and *Principles of Macroeconomics*.

Research Experience

- Summer 2013 *Research Assistant*, Department of Economics, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana. Research assistant to Professor Nelson C. Mark.

Papers

- “The Impact of College Expansion on Human Capital Investment and Inequality,” job market paper
“Entry, Exit, and Firm Dynamics: The Role of the Reform of State-Owned Enterprises in China',” with
Chengcheng Jia
“Credit Crunch, Persistence of Shocks, and Firm Entry”” with Lichen Zhang

Computer Skills

MatLab, Stata, LaTeX

Languages

English (fluent), Chinese (native)

Abstracts

“The Impact of College Expansion on Human Capital Investment and Inequality,” job market paper

This paper studies how China's public college expansion program impacts human capital investment in children and inequality in the long run. I introduce a heterogeneous-agent overlapping-generations model in which altruistic parents invest in their children's education, which can raise their children's future working efficiency as well as their chance of passing the College Entrance Examination. After estimating the model using Chinese data, I examine the effects of the 1999 college reform, which led to a six-fold expansion in college attendance. I find that the increase in college attainment, human capital, and ex ante welfare is substantial but unevenly distributed, with disadvantaged children benefiting least from the existing policy. The simulation also reveals that the reason for the unequal outcomes is that college expansion primarily incentivizes rich parents to spend more on their children's education, which is consistent with the empirical evidence. Furthermore, I show that relative to the current policy, a remediation policy that diverts a part of the college tuition subsidy to support the development of disadvantaged children can result in not only additional human capital and welfare gains but also a reduction in inequality and intergenerational persistence.

“Entry, Exit, and Firm Dynamics: The Role of the Reform of State-Owned Enterprises in China,” with Chengcheng Jia

The reform of the State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in China is not like a shock therapy that attempts to privatize all SOEs at once. In fact, the SOE reform in China should be characterized as its official slogan, Grasp the Large and Let Go of the Small, meaning that small SOEs exited while large SOEs survived and continue to enter. In this paper, we model a two-sector economy in which firms in both the private sector and the state sector are heterogeneous in productivity and make entry and exit decisions under financial frictions. Shutting down small SOEs allows resource reallocate both within the state sector (towards survived and newly entered SOEs) and across the sector (towards private firms). Reallocation within the state sector explains the puzzle of the coexistence of a decreasing output share of SOEs and an increasing aggregate investment rate during the transition period. By calibrating the model to match the empirical patterns of the SOE reform, we aim to quantify the contribution of SOE reform to the aggregate output and productivity growth in China.

“Credit Crunch, Persistence of Shocks, and Firm Entry” with Lichen Zhang

One of the most salient features of the Great Recession is that the number of start-ups drops by over 30 percent and barely recovers since then. In this paper, we build up an incomplete-market heterogeneous agent model with an occupational choice to test if this model can generate both the large decline and the slow recovery in firm entry following a credit crunch. We find that the result depends on the persistence of idiosyncratic productivity shocks: if the shocks are more persistent, an unexpected credit shock leads to a larger drop in firm entry but a quicker transition to the pre-crisis steady state. Conversely, less persistent shocks imply that the decline in firm entry is smaller, but the recovery is much more sluggish. We then provide a rationale for these patterns. Finally, we find that the effect of a TFP shock, constructed to mimic the endogenous TFP dynamics from the credit shock in the benchmark economy, on firm entry and the stock of firms is very minor. This may indicate that a negative credit shock more closely resembles the Great Recession.