Quanfeng Zhou

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Education

University of California, Riverside — Riverside, CA
Ph.D. in Economics — *Sep. 2016 - Jun. 2022 (expected)*

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor — Ann Arbor, MI
M.A. in Applied Economics — *Sep. 2014 - Dec. 2015*

Nanyang Technological University — Singapore
B.A. in Economics — *Sep. 2010 - Jun. 2014*

Research Interests

Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Applied Econometrics, Applied Microeconomics

Working Paper

"Does Higher Instructional Spending in Colleges Promote Student Earnings?" (Job Market Paper)

Abstract: Are large increases in college spending worthwhile? This paper focuses on the relationship between instructional spending in colleges and student earnings after entering the labor market. By exploiting an institution-level panel data set, I use two-way fixed effects regressions to estimate the elasticities between instructional spending and student earnings. The estimated elasticities are 0.5, 1.7, and 1.9 percent for average earnings six, eight, and ten years after first attendance. They are also higher on lower percentiles in the earning distribution. Compared to the estimates in the existing literature, my estimates are much smaller. I further interact instructional spending with the type of institution. I find that the results are driven mainly through private institutions and four-year institutions. Public institutions that are more established are also found to have a positive, but smaller effect. Cost-benefit analysis reveals that instructional spending is cost-effective only under an extremely forward-looking perspective.

Work in Progress

"Allocation Mechanism and External Validity in the Regression Discontinuity Design"

"Bounding for External Validity", with Michael Bates

"Competition for Better Students and College Budget Decisions", with Zhuozhen Zhao

Non-Peer-Reviewed Publication

"Good Jobs in the Inland Empire" ([Link](#)), with Michael Bates, Karthick Ramakrishnan, Gary Rettberg, and Beth Tamayose

Research Experience

Graduate Student Researcher, Center for Social Innovation, UC Riverside — Apr. 2020 - Current
Supervisor: Karthick Ramakrishnan, Director — *Riverside, CA*

Research Assistant, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan — Aug. 2015 - Apr. 2016
Supervisor: Martha Bailey, Research Associate Professor — *Ann Arbor, MI*

Research Assistant, Income Dynamics Lab, University of Michigan — Sep. 2015 - Apr. 2016
Supervisor: Raj Arunachalam, Director — *Ann Arbor, MI*

Teaching Experience

Instructor, Department of Economics, University of California, Riverside — Aug. 2020
- **ECON102:** Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (Upper Division)

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University of California — Sep. 2017 - Dec. 2020
- **ECON200A:** Microeconomic Theory (Core Ph.D. Course) — Fall 2019
- **ECON002:** Introduction to Macroeconomics (Lower Division) — Spring/Fall 2018
- **ECON003:** Introduction to Microeconomics (Lower Division) — Fall 2017, Winter 2018, Fall 2020
- **ECON102:** Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (Upper Division) — Summer 2019
- **ECON104A:** Intermediate Microeconomic Theory I (Upper Division) — Winter 2019
- **ECON104B:** Intermediate Microeconomic Theory II (Upper Division) — Winter 2020
- **ECON105B:** Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory (Upper Division) — Summer 2018
- **ECON108:** Introductory Econometrics (Upper Division) — Spring 2019

Seminar Presentations

Applied Economics Seminar, University of California, Riverside	Oct 2021
Applied Economics Seminar, University of California, Riverside	May 2020

Awards and Honors

Dean's Distinguished Fellowship, University of California, Riverside	2016 - 2021
Jen Family Scholarship, Nanyang Technological University	2009 - 2014

Skills

Softwares	R, Stata, Matlab, Python, LaTeX
Languages	Mandarin (native), English (fluent)

References

Michael Bates (Advisor)
Assistant Professor of Economics
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