

Mingyi Li

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Shenzhen, China

Research Interests

Urban Economics, Labor Economics

Education

Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen

2024 –

Ph.D. in Economics (rank 1)

Shenzhen, Guangdong, China

Xiamen University

2020 – 2023

M.A. in Economics (rank 2, advised by Ying Chen)

Xiamen, Fujian, China

Master's Thesis, "Impacts of Thermal Power Plants on Population Migration-An Analysis Based on the Spatial Equilibrium Model"

Southwestern University of Finance and Economics

2016 – 2020

B.A. in Economics (GPA 3.9)

Chengdu, Sichuan, China

Work in Progress

"Consumer Heterogeneity and the Stimulus Effect of Digital Coupons" with Ying Chen, Jiaming Mao, and Jingyi Zhou

Abstract: We study a government digital coupon program in Beijing using transaction-level data and causal forest methods. While coupons increased daily consumption by 12% on average, we document substantial heterogeneity in responses. Just 9% of consumers generated nearly half the stimulus effect, while 19% reduced their spending. While traditional consumer characteristics like wealth and past spending habits strongly predict response magnitude, we also highlight the important role of local consumption amenities in shaping stimulus effectiveness. Our analysis further reveals that the program benefits concentrated among larger, higher-priced establishments, potentially undermining the goal of supporting vulnerable businesses. Counterfactual simulations demonstrate that targeted distribution could generate twice more spending with the same budget, highlighting efficiency-equity tradeoffs in stimulus design.

"Balancing Growth and Sustainability: the Impact of Coal-Fired Power Plants on Local Labor Markets" with Ying Chen and Shihe Fu

Abstract: In emerging markets, power shortages are a major obstacle to economic progress. Coal-fired power plants are the primary power source in these regions due to their affordability and stability. However, these plants also contribute to severe air pollution and pose a threat to public health. This paper examines the impacts and underlying mechanisms of coal-fired power plants on local labor markets using a Rosen-Roback style spatial framework and an instrumental variable approach. Our findings indicate that these plants enhance local firm productivity, increasing local population size. However, they also worsen air pollution, leading to an outflow of population. Notably, at the granular county level, the inflow of population on average exceeds the outflow. Additionally, we uncover significant spatial heterogeneity and spillovers in the impacts of coal-fired power plants. This study highlights the trade-offs faced by emerging economies as they strive to balance the need for a stable electricity supply with concerns about environmental hazards.

Research Experience

Research Assistant for Prof. Ying Chen, XMU 12, 2021 – 06, 2023

- Conducted data cleaning, data visualization, and advanced regression analysis
- Participated in weekly seminars, presenting and discussing frontier research papers

Project Assistant for Prof. Jiong Zhu, XMU 10, 2021 – 02, 2022

- Analyzed unstructured datasets using NLP techniques for econometrics research

Research Assistant for Prof. Yilin Zhang, SWUFE 06, 2018 – 06, 2020

- Contributed to literature review and academic writing
- Assisted in manuscripts review and editing

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Urban Economics (Undergraduate) 09, 2021 – 01, 2022

- Assisted in course preparation and grading
- Provided after-class office hours support to students

Work Experience

Product Manager, Shanghai Pudong Development Bank (Wealth management) 07, 2023 – 01, 2024

- Assisted in data analysis
- Facilitated daily communication with leadership and team members

Awards & Honors

National Scholarship, XMU 2021

Teaching Assistant Award, XMU 2021

University Fellowships, SWUFE 2016–2019

Languages & Skills

Languages: English (fluent) and Mandarin (native)

Computer Languages: Python, R, SQL, Linux, Git

Software: STATA, ArcGIS, L^AT_EX