

October 29, 2017

Gabi Xuan Jiang

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Education

Purdue University

Ph.D. in Economics

Dissertation: Essays in Labor Economics

Committee: Kevin Mumford (*Co-Chair*), Miguel Sarzosa (*Co-Chair*), Victoria Prowse, Jillian Carr

West Lafayette, IN

May 2018 (Expected)

Purdue University

M.S. in Agricultural Economics

West Lafayette, IN

December 2012

Beihang University

B.S. in Industrial Engineering

Beijing, China

July 2011

Research Interests

Labor Economics, Public Economics, and Economics of Education

Working Papers

[Planting the Seeds for Success: Why Women in STEM Don't Stick in The Field \(pdf\)](#) *Job Market Paper*

[Fertility Expectations and Educational Attainment: Evidence from the Mothers of China's Sibling-less Generation \(pdf\)](#) *Submitted*

[When Opportunity Knocks: China's Open Door Policy and Declining Educational Attainment \(pdf\)](#)
(with Kendall Kennedy and Jiatong Zhong)

[Do Wealth Shocks Affect Weight? Evidence from Chinese Panel Data \(pdf\)](#)

Works in Progress

“Does the Risk of Divorce Increase Female College Education” (with Kevin Mumford)

“The Influence of One Child Policy on Inter-Generational Wealth Inequality: A Marriage Market Matching Approach” (with Yiqian Lu)

Invited Conferences and Seminar Presentations

Western Economics Association International Annual Conference, Portland OR

June 2016

Midwest Economics Association Annual Conference, Cincinnati OH

April 2017

APPAM International, Brussels Belgium

July 2017

National STEM Education Research and Practice Summit, Purdue University

October 2017

Southern Economics Association Annual Conference, Tampa FL

November 2017

Research Experience

Lilly Endowment for "Transforming Indiana into a Magnet for High Technology Jobs"	<i>Fall 2017</i>
Research Assistant to Kevin Mumford	<i>Spring 2017</i>
Research Assistant to Evan Calford	<i>Fall 2016, Spring 2017</i>
Research Assistant to Soojin Kim	<i>Summer 2016</i>
Research Assistant to Ralph Siebert	<i>Spring 2015</i>

Teaching Experience

Instructor

Microeconomics	<i>Spring 2016</i>
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Teaching Assistant

Macroeconomics	<i>Summer 2017</i>
Econometrics (Master)	<i>Fall 2016</i>
Microeconomics	<i>Summer 2015, Fall 2015</i>
Macroeconomics (Master, Online)	<i>Spring 2015</i>
Macroeconomics (Ph.D.)	<i>Fall 2014</i>
Game Theory (MBA)	<i>Fall 2014</i>

Honors and Awards

Krannert School of Management/Graduate School Scholarship	<i>Fall 2016, Spring 2017</i>
Best Presentation Award, Krannert PhD Research Symposium	<i>Fall 2016</i>
Travel Grant, Purdue Graduate Student Grants	<i>Spring 2016</i>

Languages

English: Fluent

Chinese: Native

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- o American Economic Association, Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management, Midwest Economics Association, Southern Economic Association

References

Kevin Mumford

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Victoria Prowse

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Please contact Matt Pavey (mpavey@purdue.edu) to obtain letters of recommendation.

Paper Abstracts

- **“Planting the Seeds for Success: Why Women in STEM Don’t Stick in The Field”** *Job Market Paper*

Women are proportionally underrepresented in both STEM college degrees and STEM jobs. Even with a STEM college degree, women are significantly less likely to work in a STEM occupation than their men counterparts. This paper investigates whether men and women possess different ability distributions and examines how much of the gender gap in major choice and job choice can be explained by gender differences in sorting on abilities. I assess the determinants of major and job choices and apply an extended Roy model with unobserved heterogeneity to a novel data set with individual-level academic records and job outcome information. I find that men sort more on abilities than women when making major choice. The fact that female STEM graduates are less likely to stay in STEM compared to their male counterparts is not due to the difference in ability sorting. High-ability women give up \$13,000 - \$20,000 in annual salary by choosing non-STEM majors. Those non-STEM high-ability women only make up 5.6% of the female population, but their earnings losses explain about 9.42% of the gender wage gap.

- **“Fertility Expectations and Educational Attainment: Evidence from the Mothers of China’s Sibling-less Generation”** *Submitted*

This paper exploits China’s One-Child Policy to study the relationship between fertility expectation and educational attainment of the mothers of the “sibling-less generation”. I use two difference-in-differences approaches to estimate how Han, the ethnic majority, women changed their educational choice in response to the policy. The policy has accounted for 54.5% of the increase in the education of women born between 1960-1980. Women under the age 15 when the policy was implemented experienced the strongest effect. Potential mechanisms include delaying entry to motherhood and increasing labor force participation. This study highlights the policy’s positive externality on women’s education.

- **“When Opportunity Knocks: China’s Open Door Policy and Declining Educational Attainment”** *(with Kendall Kennedy and Jiatong Zhong)*

At the end of 1978, China decided to open up to the outside world. We analyze how China’s industrialization and the immediate export growth due to the Open Door Policy change Chinese teenagers’ education decisions, which explains the education decline. We find that, middle school completion rates increased and high school completion rates decreased in response to export growth. This suggests a tradeoff between education and labor market opportunities in China. These education effects are more prominent for cohorts who were younger when China’s Open Door Policy began, even though these teenagers also faced a stronger education system compared to the earlier cohorts.

○ **“Do Wealth Shocks Affect Weight? Evidence from Chinese Panel Data”**

I exploit significant rises in Chinese housing prices from 2000 to 2011 to examine the impact of housing wealth shocks on body weight by using individual level data from the China Health and Nutrition Survey (CHNS). I find that increase in home price will cause increase in BMI of non-overweight people while decrease in BMI of overweight people. Both results suggest that wealth gain leads to a healthier body weight. By assuming calories consumption is the primary channel of body weight gains and loss, I run the same regressions on changes in calories consumed instead of changes in BMI. Estimates show that increase in home price leads to increase in calories consumed for non-overweight people while decrease in calories consumed in overweight people, which indirectly supports the relationship between home price and BMI.

○ **“Does the Risk of Divorce Increase Female College Education?”** *(in progress, with Kevin Mumford)*

The percentage of young women that complete a bachelor’s degree doubled over the 27 years from 1980 to 2007, growing from 21 to 42 percent. The percentage of young men that complete a bachelor’s degree increased by 8 percentage points during this same time period, moving from 21 to 29 percent. Why did female’s education increase by so much during a period when male’s education grew a much slower rate? Given that the evidence on changes in the gender difference in the return to education is currently ambiguous, this paper proposes an alternative hypothesis. An elevated divorce rate exposed young women may expect this period to have more divorces. This may have led young women to view education as a form of insurance against bad outcomes in case of divorce, or perhaps as a method of preventing divorce itself. We plan to use NLSY79 to analyze the educational attainment of the cohorts who were in high school when the Unilateral Divorce Law was implemented.

○ **“The Influence of One-Child Policy on Inter-Generational Wealth Inequality: A Marriage Market Matching Approach”** *(in progress, with Yiqian Lu)*

We investigate the effect of China’s One-Child Policy (OCP) on the marriage market, and estimate how much of China’s current inter-generational wealth inequality could be explained by OCP. We proposed an Overlapping Generations model to explore the pattern of wealth redistribution. The hypothesis is that OCP could influence inter-generational wealth inequality by two channels. First, an increase in the male-to-female sex ratio due to OCP distorts the marriage market and exacerbates mismatched marriage. The marriage matching process is assumed to be perfect positive assortative matching. Second: a decrease in fertility due to OCP, particularly for the richer families distributed on the right-tail of the wealth distribution, will increase inequality by concentrating bequests among the sibling-less generation. Our empirical estimation strategy relies on the comparison of the marriage market and wealth inequality in Mainland China and Taiwan by using China’s and Taiwan Social Change Survey.