

Mingjia Xie

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Academic position

Assistant professor, Liaoning University 2023 -
Li Anmin Institute of Economic Research

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Tilburg University 2018 - 2022
Department of Econometrics & Operations Research
Job Market Paper: 'Who Benefits Most from Education? Evidence from China

Research Master in Economics, Tilburg University 2016 – 2018
CentER, School of Economics and Management
Courses include advanced level of microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics, and advanced microeconometrics

MSc in Finance, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics 2013 – 2016
Research Institute of Economics & Management
Courses include intermediate level of microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics, and introductory level of finance

BSc in Economics, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics 2009 – 2013
School of Economic Information Engineering
Courses include statistics, programming, data structure, and introductory level of economics

Research Interest

Health Economics; Education and Poverty; Causal Mediation Analysis; Applied Microeconometrics

Research Papers

Mingjia Xie, Who Benefits Most from Education? Evidence from China. Job Market Paper

I examine heterogeneous returns to post-compulsory education attainment (high school degree or above) in China by exploiting the variation in the educational attainment caused by a reform that introduces compulsory education with different implementation dates across provinces. Using data from China Household Finance Survey (CHFS), I find that individuals who are less likely to have post-compulsory education have higher returns to education. This finding contradicts the common conclusion on post-compulsory education that individuals select them into education based on gains. One explanation for this

pattern is that children who are less likely to be enrolled in the education system have more disadvantaged backgrounds and lower wages without educational attainment. Education acts as an equalizer that leads to more homogeneous wages, resulting in larger returns for children who are less likely to be reached by post-compulsory education.

Salm, Martin and Siflinger, Bettina M and Xie, Mingjia, The Effect of Retirement on Mental Health: Indirect Treatment Effects and Causal Mediation (April 12, 2021). CentER Discussion Paper Series Nr. 2021-012

People experience multiple changes in their lives after retirement, which can affect their mental health. In this paper, we examine the mediating impact of grandparental childcare in the effect of retirement on mental health among elderly women in Europe. We apply a semi-parametric estimation strategy to disentangle the total effect of retirement on mental health into a direct effect and an indirect effect mediated through grandparental childcare. We find that retirement directly leads to a significant increase in mental health problems. However, this effect is completely offset by a significant reduction in mental health problems generated by a mediating effect of grandparental childcare. As a result, the total effect of retirement on mental health is close to zero. We then examine country-specific heterogeneity in the provision of public childcare and find that the mediating effect unfolds its full compensating strength in countries in which grandparental childcare is supplemental to public childcare. Our results have important implications for designing old-age social policies.

Mingjia Xie; Ting Yin; Yi Zhang; Takashi Oshio, Impact of Fertility on the Elderly's Healthcare Utilization. Working Paper

This paper studies the causal effect of fertility on parental healthcare utilization in rural China. We use the instrumental variable approach to account for the potential endogeneity in the fertility choice, exploiting the exogenous variations in the gender of the first-born child in regions where the one-child policy is not active. We find that having more children increases formal and informal healthcare utilization. But the expenditure on formal and informal healthcare does not increase significantly except for men's outpatient costs. Further mechanism analysis shows that the increased healthcare use is driven by deteriorating physical and mental health. Meanwhile, with more children available, children are more likely to pay the out-of-pocket self-treatment cost and health check for the parents. And they are more likely to make monetary transfers to their parents, suggesting that the children partly bear the increased burden of healthcare utilization costs.

Zhang, Jin, and Mingjia Xie. China's oil product pricing mechanism: What role does it play in China's macroeconomy?. China Economic Review 38 (2016): 209-221

The oil product pricing mechanism is a regulation system that was introduced in the late 1990s to control the oil product prices in China. For the first time to our knowledge, we provide an empirical evaluation of this regulation system, with a particular focus on its role in China's macroeconomy. Based on monthly data between 2000 and 2013, we find that: (i) contrary to the general public's impression, the mechanism is 'fair' overall in the sense that it responds to the rise and fall of international oil price symmetrically; (ii) the effect of the mechanism on the Chinese economy, however, is very limited; and (iii) the limited effect of the mechanism holds for different levels of regulation during the studied period, suggesting that potential deregulation may have little impact on the economy.

Teaching Experience

Course: 'Business Analysis' for undergraduate students
Involved the tutorial, assessment of work, grading assignment, and exam

Tutor, Tilburg University

2018-2022

Course: 'Statistics and Data Management' for undergraduate students
Involved the tutorial, assessment of work, grading assignment, and exam

Tutor, Tilburg University

2018-2021

Course: 'Mathematics' for undergraduate students
Involved the tutorial, assessment of work, grading assignment, and exam

Conferences

Presenter at Annual conference of German Economic Association, September 2021

Presenter at EEA-ESEM conference, August 2021

Presenter at Annual Conference of the International Association for Applied Econometrics, June 2021

Presenter at Essen Health Conference, May 2021

Presenter at LolaHESG, September 2020

Presenter at Essen Mental Health Workshop, August 2020

Honors and Grants

Koopmans Scholarship, Tilburg University, 2016

National scholarship for graduate student, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, 2015