Xiaofan ZHU

School of Economics, Singapore Management University

xiaofan.zhu.2020@phdecons.smu.edu.sg

Contact Information

School of Economics Singapore Management University 90 Stamford Road Singapore 178903, Republic of Singapore Handphone: +65 89425101

Personal Information:

Date of birth: 1996/05/01 Sex: Female Citizenship: China

Undergraduate Studies:

Bachelor of Business Administration, Accountancy, Shandong University of Finance and Economics, 2014-2018

Master Level Studies:

Master of Economics (with Distinction), The University of Hong Kong, 2018-2019

Graduate Studies:

Singapore Management University, 2020 - present Thesis Title: Essays on Institutions and Elite Outcomes

Expected Completion Date: June, 2025

Thesis Committee and References:

Fali HUANG (advisor)

School of Economics
Singapore Management University
90 Stamford Road, Singapore 178903
<+65 68280859 > < flhuang@smu.edu.sg >

Seonghoon KIM

School of Economics
Singapore Management University
90 Stamford Road, Singapore 178903
<+65 68085465> <seonghoonkim@smu.edu.sg>

Sunha MYONG

School of Economics
Singapore Management University
90 Stamford Road, Singapore 178903
<+65 68281914> <sunhamyong@smu.edu.sg>

Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary fields: Development Economics, Economics of Education Secondary fields: Political Economy

secondary mends: I office at Econom

<u>Teaching Experience:</u> Teaching Assistant:

ECON242 Political Economy Analysis of Institutions (Undergraduate), 2023-24

ECON219 Organizational Economics (Undergraduate), 2022-24

ECON682 Econometrics Analysis (Postgraduate), 2022-24

ECON207 Intermediate Econometrics (Undergraduate), 2021-24

Research Experience:

Full-time Research Assistant, HKU Business School, The University of Hong Kong, 2019-2020

Conference and Seminar Presentations:

European Association of Labour Economists (EALE) Conference, Norway
Applied Young Economists Webinar (AYEW)
SMU Applied Microeconomics Workshops, Singapore
September 2024
April 2024
November 2023

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

SMU Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship, 2024-2025 Dean's Honours List at HKU Business School

Research Papers:

"Educational Decisions in the Shadow of Cronyism: An Empirical Study of College Graduates in China (with Chen Xiang)" (Job Market Paper)

Abstract:

This study investigates how inefficient political institutions, marked by rampant corruption and cronyism, shape students' educational choices based on their family's political connections. We exploit the onset of China's anti-corruption campaign and compare the educational choices of college students with at least one cadre parent versus those without, from more corrupt regions versus less corrupt regions, before and after the campaign. We find that after the campaign, college students with at least a cadre parent from regions previously characterised by higher corruption levels are more likely to pursue further education after graduation. The effects are more pronounced for male students, for students with liberal art track majors, for students with lower academic performance during college, and for students with cadre parents with higher positional ranks. Moreover, we examine the underlying mechanisms and find evidence of a more equitable post-campaign employment environment, where connected students need stronger educational qualifications and more human capital stock to remain competitive against their unconnected counterparts.

"How On-campus Residence Influences Academic Success and Non-academic Outcomes (with Sujata Visaria, Xuanyi Jin, and Chen Xiang)"

Abstract:

This study examines the impact of on-campus residence halls on academic and labor market outcomes, as well as subjective wellbeing among students at a first-tier university in Hong Kong. Leveraging administrative data and a random allocation system, we find that students residing in halls exhibit lower yearly Grade Point Averages, receive fewer job offers upon graduation, and report higher satisfaction with their hall experience. Across the complete sample of students analyzed, male students are particularly influenced by hall residency. We further study the underlying mechanisms and identify that underutilization of school learning facilities and fewer full-time internships of hall residents may contribute to the observed academic and labor market performance differences. Our research contributes to understanding the role of college amenities in human capital accumulation and sheds light on gender-specific effects of on-campus residence.

"Religiosity and Family Firms: Evidence from China"

Computer Skills:

Stata, R, ArcGIS, LaTeX

Languages:

Mandarin (Native), English (Fluent)