

WEI HUANG

<http://scholar.harvard.edu/weihuang>

huangw@nber.org

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Placement Director: Claudia Goldin
Placement Director: Larry Katz
Graduate Administrator: Brenda Piquet

CGOLDIN@FAS.HARVARD.EDU

LKATZ@HARVARD.EDU

BPIQUET@FAS.HARVARD.EDU

617-495-3934

617-495-5148

617-495-8927

Office Contact Information

1050 Mass Ave, Fl 3
Cambridge, MA 02138
Cell phone number: 617-999-3450

Research and Teaching Fields:

Public Economics, Labor Economics, Health Economics

Academic Employment:

Post-Doctoral Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), 2016-2017

Graduate Studies:

Harvard University, Ph.D. in Economics, 2011-2016
Thesis Title: Five Essays in Labor and Public Economics

References:

Professor David Cutler
Littauer Center 230, Harvard University
617-496-5216, dcutler@fas.harvard.edu

Professor Richard Freeman
1050 Mass Ave, Harvard University and NBER
617-588-0305, freeman@nber.org

Professor Edward Glaeser
Littauer Center 315A, Harvard University
617-495-0575, eglaeser@harvard.edu

Professor Adriana Lleras-Muney
9373 Bunche Hall, UCLA
310-825-3925, alleras@econ.ucla.edu

Previous Studies:

M.A. in Economics with distinction, Peking University, 2011
B.S. in Physics and B.A. in Economics with distinction, Peking University, 2008

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2016-2017	NBER Post-Doctoral Fellowship on Economics of an Aging Workforce
2015-2016	NBER Dissertation Fellowship on Economics of an Aging Workforce
2015-2016	Jeanne Humphrey Block Dissertation Award, Harvard University
2015	Extraordinary Potential Prize of Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-Financed Students Abroad, Chinese Ministry of Education
2011, 2014	Warburg Research Fund, Harvard University
2014	Poster Session Winner, Population Association of America
2013-2014	NBER Pre-doc Fellowship in Aging and Health Economics
2012-2014	IQSS Graduate Research and Conference Travel Grant, Harvard University
2012	Cheung Yan Family Research Grant, Harvard University

Academic Affiliations:

Board of Directors, The Chinese Economists Society (CES), 2016 – Present
Research Fellow, The Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), 2014 – Present
NBER Pre-Doctoral Fellow in Aging and Health Economics, 2013 – 2014

Inequality Doctoral Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School, 2013 – 2016
Wertheim Fellow, Labor and Worklife Program, Harvard University, 2013 – 2015
Student Affiliate at Institute for Quantitative Social Science 2012 – 2016

Publications:

Glaeser, Edward L, Wei Huang, Yueran Ma, and Andrei Shleifer. "A Real Estate Boom with Chinese Characteristics." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, forthcoming.

Huang, Wei, Xiaoyan Lei, and Yaohui Zhao. 2016. "One-Child Policy and the Rise of Man-made Twins." *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 98(3), 467-476

Freeman, Richard B, and Wei Huang. 2015. "Collaborating with People Like Me: Ethnic Co-authorship within the US." *Journal of Labor Economics* 33(3) (S1): S289-S318.

Huang, Wei. 2015. "Do ABCs Get More Citations Than XYZs?" *Economic Inquiry* 53 (1): 773-789.

Cutler, David M, Wei Huang, and Adriana Lleras-Muney. 2015. "When Does Education Matter? The Protective Effect of Education for Cohorts Graduating in Bad Times." *Social Science & Medicine* 127: 63–73.

Freeman, Richard B, and Wei Huang. 2015. "China's "Great Leap Forward" in Science and Engineering". *In Global Mobility of Research Scientists: The Economics of Who Goes Where and Why*, ed. Aldo Geuna. Elsevier Inc, p. 155-175.

Freeman, Richard B, and Wei Huang. 2014. "Collaboration: Strength in diversity." *Nature* 513 (7518): 305.

Huang, Wei, and Yi Zhou. 2013. "Effects of Education on Cognition at Older Ages: Evidence from China's Great Famine." *Social Science & Medicine* 98: 54-62.

Huang, Wei, Xiaoyan Lei, Geert Ridder, John Strauss and Yaohui Zhao. 2013. "Health, Height, Height Shrinkage, and SES at Older Ages: Evidence from China." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 5(2): 86-121.

Research Papers:

"Fertility Restrictions and Life Cycle Outcomes: Evidence from the One Child Policy in China." (Job Market Paper)

Abstract: I use the experience of China's One Child Policy to examine how fertility restrictions affect economic and social outcomes over the lifetime. The One Child Policy imposed a birth quota and heavy penalties for "out-of-plan" births. Using variation in the fertility penalties across provinces over time, I examine how fertility restrictions imposed early in the lives of individuals affected their educational attainment, marriage and fertility decisions, and later life economic outcomes. Exposure to stricter fertility restrictions when young leads to higher education, more white-collar jobs, delayed marriage, and lower fertility. Further consequences include lower rates of residing with the elderly, higher household income, consumption, and saving. Finally, exposure to stricter fertility restrictions in early life increases later life female empowerment as measured by an increase in the fraction of households headed by women, female-oriented consumption, and gender-equal opinions. Overall, fertility restrictions imposed when people are young have powerful effects throughout the life cycle.

"Economic Conditions and Mortality: Evidence from 200 Years of Data" with David Cutler and Adriana Lleras-Muney. Under review.

Abstract: Using data covering over 100 birth-cohorts in 32 countries, we examine the short- and long-term effects of economic conditions on mortality. We find that small, but not large, economic booms increase contemporary mortality. Yet booms from birth to age 25, particularly those during adolescence, lower adult mortality. A simple model can rationalize these findings if economic conditions differentially affect the level and trajectory of both good and bad inputs into health. Indeed, air pollution and alcohol consumption increase in booms. In contrast, booms in adolescence raise adult incomes and improve social relations and mental health, suggesting these mechanisms dominate in the long run.

"The Power of Social Pensions." with Chuanchuan Zhang

Abstract: This paper examines the impacts of social pension provision among people of different ages. Utilizing the county-by-county rollout of the New Rural Pension Scheme in rural China, we find that, among the age-eligible people, the scheme provision leads to higher household income (18 percent) and food expenditure (10 percent), lower labor supply (6 percent), and better health (11-14 percent). In addition, among the age-ineligible adults, the pension scheme shifts them from farming to non-farming work, lowers insurance participation rate, but does not change income, expenditure or health significantly. Finally, among the children aged below 15, the pension scheme leads to more pocket money received, more caring from grandparents, improved health, and higher schooling rate.

"One-Child Policy, Marriage Distortion and Welfare Loss." with Yi Zhou

Abstract: This paper studies the marriage distortion and the associated welfare loss caused by the One-Child Policy (OCP) in China. Using the variation in the ethnicity-specific assigned birth quotas and different fertility penalties across provinces over time, we first show that the OCP induced a significantly higher unmarried rate and more interethnic marriages. Using the sufficient statistics approach, we derive a formula for the social welfare loss caused by the OCP-induced lower fertility and marriage distortion, and it only depends on the estimated reduced-form elasticities. Our estimates imply that the welfare loss caused by lowered fertility and marriage distortion is 2.6 and 1.1 percent of annual household income, respectively.

"Overconfidence and Insurance Participation among the Elderly." with Mi Luo

Abstract: Individuals may have imperfect information about their health status, leading to suboptimal decisions in insurance participation. Using nationally representative samples of the elderly in US and China, we find that people with lower socio-economic status and poorer health are relatively less likely to realize how unhealthy they are and this overconfidence is associated with no insurance participation. Accurate health information provided through physical examinations induces relatively higher participation among the overconfident people afterwards. These findings help to answer the two puzzles in health insurance participation - insufficient participation and advantageous selection.

"Understanding the Effects of Education on Health: Evidence from China."

Abstract: Using temporal and geographical variation in the implementation of compulsory schooling laws (CSLs) in China, I show that education significantly reduces the rates of reported fair or poor health, underweight, and smoking, and enhances cognition. Furthermore, the cognition and income only explain 15 percent and 7 percent of the impact of the CSLs on self-reported health. Suggestive evidence shows that spillovers from increased education of other people in the local region could explain over 25 percent.

"Fetal Origin Hypothesis over Life Cycle: A Tale of Two Disasters."

Abstract: This paper uses both the largest plague in the 20th century and the Great Pandemic as natural experiments to test the fetal origin hypothesis. The plague arrived in northeast China unexpectedly in October 1910 and largely subsided by March 1911, killing over 60 thousand people. Women exposed to the plague in-utero displayed worse health, lower cognition, higher depression, and poorer life quality. They also presented lower literacy, lower spousal education, fewer children, lower household income, less transfer from children, and less medical expenditure. However, I do not find robust evidence for men or for the effects of the plague at ages 1-5. In contrast, using the deaths caused by the 1918 Influenza Pandemic across countries, I find that experiencing the flu both at birth and during early childhood leads to significantly higher mortality in later life. Since the plague infection lead to death for sure while the flu did not, these results deepen our understanding the impacts on the life course of early childhood experiences and help to reconcile the conflicting findings in the literature.

Referee Activities:

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Canadian Journal of Economics, China Economic Review, Economics and Education Review, Economics and Human Biology, Economic Inquiry, Health Economics, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Population Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Urban Economics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Research Policy, Science

Teaching Experience:

Spring 2016	Economics of Discontinuous Change (Econ 1818), Harvard University, Teaching Fellow for Professor Richard Freeman
Fall 2015	Microeconomic Theory: Advanced (Econ 1011a), Harvard University, Head Teaching

Spring 2015	Fellow for Professor Edward Glaeser Empirical and Mathematical Reasoning 20 (EMR 20), Harvard University, Teaching fellow for Professor David Cutler
Spring 2014	Economics of Discontinuous Change (Econ 1818), Harvard University, Teaching Fellow for Professor Richard Freeman

Research Experience:

2012-2013	Harvard University, Research assistant for Professor Richard Freeman
2011-2012	Harvard University, Research assistant for Professor Edward Glaeser

Conference Presentations and Academic Activities:

2016	NBER Summer Institute (Aging, Health Economics).
2015	American Economics Association Annual; Population Association of America Annual Meeting; The CES North America Conference; Whitebox Advisors Graduate Student Conference; CES Conference; CIREQ Montreal Applied Economics Conference; Fourth SOLE/EALE World Conference; Econometric Society World Congress; 2nd Biennial Conference of China Development Studies.
2014:	American Economics Association Annual; Population Association of America Annual Meeting (Poster); The CES 2014 North America Conference; 11th Annual Migration Meeting (AM2); 2014 China Economics Summer Institute; China Meeting of Econometric Society.
2013	First Biennial Conference of China Development Studies; China Meeting of Econometric Society; Population Association of America Annual (Poster); American Economics Association Annual.
2012 and before	NBER High-Skill Immigration Conference; Population Association of America Annual, (Coauthor present); North East Universities Development Consortium (Coauthor present); European Society for Population Economics Annual Meeting.