

Yue Yu

Last updated: September 18, 2019

Department of Economics
Columbia University
New York, NY 10027

(917) 864-0439
yy2558@columbia.edu

Placement Chairs: Martín Uribe, (212) 851-4008, mu2166@columbia.edu
Donald R. Davis, (212) 854-4037, drd28@columbia.edu
Placement Assistant: Amy Devine, (212) 854-6881, aed2152@columbia.edu

Education

Ph.D. Economics, Department of Economics, Columbia University, Expected 2020
B.A., Economics, Guanghua School of Management, Peking University, 2014

Fields of Specialization

Primary: International Trade, Urban Economics
Secondary: Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Job Market Paper

“Land Use Regulation and Economic Development: Evidence from the Farmland Red Line Policy in China.”

Best paper (runner-up) at the European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, 2019 (for recent graduates and current students)

Abstract: Land use is tightly regulated worldwide, yet there is limited empirical evidence on the consequences of land use regulations on economic development. This paper exploits a national policy in China - the Farmland Red Line Policy - to provide the first causal evidence on the impact of urban land-use regulation on GDP and population growth. First implemented in 1999, this policy imposes a constraint on rural-to-urban land conversion, the stringency of which depends on exogenous local geographical features and varies across local regions. I find that a one standard deviation decrease of land conversion constraint significantly raises a local region's urban land by 5.5%, its GDP by 3.9%, and its population by 4.5%. I develop a quantitative spatial equilibrium model with endogenous land use decisions and use it to evaluate the aggregate impacts of the policy. The policy creates a friction on land conversion from low productivity agricultural use to high productivity manufacturing use. In the general equilibrium, land misallocation further leads to labor misallocation due to labor mobility. Counterfactual results suggest that the welfare of workers would have been 5.8% higher in 2010 if the policy had not been implemented.

Work in Progress

“Agglomeration within Knowledge Hubs: Evidence from Economics Research Institutions.”

Abstract: In the post-Internet era, does being around with more active researchers in the workplace increase one's innovation activity? This paper tests the impact of team size on one's publication output among US university economists from 1996 to 2016. I construct a database of affiliation and publication history for all US university economists using the publication information from the Scopus database. University funding revenue from private gifts and government appropriation is used to instrument the total number of economists at a university in a specific year. Estimates suggest a 10% increase of team size raises one's annual output measured by citation weighted number of publications by 4.6%. Agglomeration effect disappears once crossing the affiliation border: having more economists in a nearby affiliation

does not affect one's output. Increasing chances to coauthor with colleagues when being at a larger team helps explain the agglomeration effect.

"Expansion of High Speed Railway and Firm Export in China", (with Lin Tian)

Honors and Awards

2019 - 2020 Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Economics, Columbia University
Spring 2019 ASGC, GSAS, and Department of Economics Travel Grants, Columbia University
Spring 2019 Wueller Travel Scholarship, Columbia University
2014 - 2019 Dean's Fellowship, Department of Economics, Columbia University
2010 First Prize of Freshman Scholarship, Peking University

Conference Presentations

2019 *The European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association* (Amsterdam), *The American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association International Meeting* (Milan), *The Econometric Society Summer Meetings* (Xiamen), *Young Economists Symposium* (Columbia), *IPWSD 2019* (Columbia)

Research Experiences

2017-2018 Research Assistant of Réka Juhász, Columbia University

Teaching Assistantships

Spring 2019 The Global Economy, Ronald Miller
Fall 2018 International Trade, Waseem Noor
Spring 2017 Economics of New York City, Donald R. Davis
Fall 2016 Intermediate Macroeconomics, Xavier Sala-i-Martin
Spring 2016 Economics of Money and Banking, Tri Vi Dang
Fall 2015 Economics of Money and Banking, Perry Mehrling

Personal

Languages: Mandarin (Native), English

Programming: Proficient in Stata, ArcGIS, and Matlab; Python

References

Donald R. Davis
Department of Economics
Columbia University
(212) 854-4037
drd28@columbia.edu

David Weinstein
Department of Economics
Columbia University
(212) 854-6880
dew35@columbia.edu

Jonas Hjort
Columbia Business School
Columbia University
(212) 854-5957
jh3326@gsb.columbia.edu

Réka Juhász
Department of Economics
Columbia University
(212) 854-4902
rj2446@columbia.edu