

Yue Yu

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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: Economic Geography, International Trade, Urban Economics
Secondary: Development Economics

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)
- Best paper (honorable mention) at the North American 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 regulation on economic development. This paper studies a major policy restricting land use in China - the Farmland Red Line Policy - to provide causal evidence on the impact of urban land-use regulation on local development measured by GDP and population growth. The policy imposes a barrier on rural-to-urban land conversion, the strength of which depends on exogenous local geographical features. I show that a greater barrier significantly reduces urban land supply, lowers GDP, and decreases local population. To understand the aggregate impact of the policy, I develop a quantitative spatial equilibrium model that features endogenous land-use decisions. Through the lens of the model, the policy causes an excess supply of farmland and an under-supply of urban land and the extent of such land misallocation varies across locations due to the local geographical features. In the constrained equilibrium, the spatial and sectoral mobility of workers indicates that land misallocation leads to labor misallocation. I estimate that the welfare of workers would have been 6% higher in 2010 if the policy had not been implemented. Overall, this paper highlights that land-use regulations can distort economic activities across sectors and locations at a substantial cost of aggregate welfare in developing countries.

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. I find that 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 Railways and Firm Export in China", (with Lin Tian)

Abstract:

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
2014 Graduate of Distinction, Peking University

Conference Presentations

2019 *The North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association* (Philadelphia), *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

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