

YINING ZHU

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Department of Economics
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Placement Committee

Placement Chairs: Don Davis, drd28@columbia.edu, Suresh Naidu, sn2430@columbia.edu
Placement Assistant: Amy Devine, aed2152@columbia.edu, (212) 854-6881

EDUCATION

Columbia University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Ph.D. in Economics	(expected) May 2022
M. Phil. in Economics	May 2019
M.A. in Economics	May 2018

University of California, San Diego

B.S. in Mathematics and Economics (<i>magna cum laude</i>)	June 2015
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FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary Fields: Applied Microeconomics, Environmental Economics

Secondary Fields: Industrial Organization

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Dean's Fellowship, Department of Economics, Columbia University, 2016 onwards
Applied Micro Research Methods Colloquium Grant, Columbia University, 2019 and 2020
Program for Economics Research Grant, Columbia University, 2019
Center for Development Economics and Policy Grant, 2019
Joint Math-Econ Major Award, UCSD, 2015

JOB MARKET PAPER

“Heat of the Moment? The Effect of Temperature on Police Racial Leniency”

Police officers often exercise substantial discretion when making highly consequential decisions, which can lead to unfair and arbitrary law enforcement. In this paper, I exploit daily ambient temperature as a source of transitory, high-frequency shocks and examine how it affects an officer's decision whether to discount a driver's speeding penalty in Florida. I find that a 1-standard-deviation increase in temperature lowers the driver's probability of receiving a lenient ticket by 2%. In addition, using traffic monitoring data and crash reports, I do not find evidence of decreased police effort or increased reckless driving on hot days. I show that the reduction in leniency is disproportionately borne by white drivers, who are less likely to get a discounted penalty from white officers as the temperature increases. In addition, I find that newly hired officers become less affected by temperature as they accumulate more experience on the job. For a potential mechanism, I find a negative effect of temperature on expressed sentiment using posts from an online police forum based in Florida, which suggests that the result could be due to increased officer hostility.

WORKING PAPERS

“The Effect of Trade War on Pollution in China” with Xinming Du

“The Effect of Regional Emission Standards on Pollution Leakage in China”

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

Douglas Almond, Columbia University, 2018-2019

Tobias Salz, Columbia University, 2017

Industrial Relations Section, Princeton University, 2015-2016

Behavioral Lab, UCSD, 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Introduction to Econometrics, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2018, Fall 2017

Principles of Economics, Spring 2020, Fall 2018

Industrial Organization, Fall 2020, Summer 2018

REFERENCES

Douglas Almond

Professor of Economics and International and Public Affairs

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Suresh Naidu

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Jeffery Shrader

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