HAO LI

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics | Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN — *2022 – Present (Expected 2027)*

M.S. in Economics | Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN — *2023*

Exchange Student – Marketing | ESCE, Paris, France — *2020*

B.S. in Insurance (Actuarial Science) | Shandong University of Finance and Economics, China — *2018*

RESEARCH FIELDS

Public Economics, Health Economics, Labor economics

WORKING PAPERS

When Income Support Hurts and Helps: Health Effects of Survivors Benefits *(Job Market Paper, Reject and Resubmit, Journal of Health Economics)*

- This paper explores how income support after widowhood affects health over the life cycle, using Social Security Survivors Benefits as our setting. Using a fuzzy regression discontinuity design at the age-60 eligibility threshold and panel data from the Health and Retirement Study. Found that eligibility worsens self-reported health and increases diabetes in the short run. These effects are concentrated among widows who retire before age 60 and are most financially dependent on benefits. Mechanism analyses point to a consumption channel: the arrival of cash at eligibility relaxes a binding liquidity constraint, inducing a transitory increase in food expenditures that temporarily elevates metabolic risk. However, over the years following eligibility, depression scores improve and hospital admissions increase, suggesting that sustained benefit receipt reduces financial stress and expands access to care. Exploiting the 1965 reform that lowered the earliest eligibility age from 65 to 60, we find consistent evidence that expanded eligibility improves survival to age 70, with mortality declines concentrated in cardiovascular disease, tuberculosis, and suicide. Income support thus generates short-run health risks while improving longer-run survival.

Survivor Benefits and Intergenerational Transfers: Evidence from Adult Children's Labor Supply

- Applied Regression Kink Design (RKD) using SIPP and ATUS microdata to examine how Social Security survivor benefit eligibility at age 60 reshapes resource transfers within families. Find that eligibility significantly increases intergenerational financial transfers from widowed parents(aged 55-65) to adult children, but leaves time-based caregiving transfers unchanged — suggesting income effects drive the reallocation. Downstream effects on children's labor supply are also identified: benefit eligibility reduces children's working hours. Heterogeneity analysis by parental health status reveals differential responses across health groups. Additionally, exploit the Medicare eligibility kink at age 65 to examine how the interaction between Social Security and Medicare jointly shapes these family spillovers.

Effects of the ACA's Dependent Coverage Provision on Young Adults

- Used difference-in-differences and triple-difference framework on CPS microdata (2008–2013) to estimate causal effects of ACA dependent coverage on insurance uptake and labor-market outcomes.

WORK IN PROGRESS

The Mental Health Costs of AI-Induced Job Displacement

- Estimates the causal effect of exposure to generative AI on worker mental health. Constructing a Bartik-style shift-share instrument that combines pre-shock occupation employment shares with occupation-level LLM replaceability scores from Eloundou et al. (2023), the paper uses the November 2022 ChatGPT release as an exogenous shock to AI availability. Linking this exposure measure to mental health outcomes in SIPP/BRFSS, the analysis tests whether workers in high-exposure occupations experienced deteriorating mental health relative to low-exposure workers after 2022.

PUBLISHED PAPERS

Emerging Markets' Response to COVID-19: Insights from Arbitrage Strategies
Heliyon, Vol. 10 (2024)

Study on Influencing Factors of Commercial Health Insurance Demand in China

Business, Economics and Management Innovation (2021)

Optimal Portfolio of Basic Pension Insurance Funds in China
Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research, Vol. 451 (2019)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor – Microeconomics (ECON 251) | Purdue University *Fall & Summer 2025*

- Sole instructor of record; independently designed syllabus, lectures, assignments, and exams for undergraduate students. Held weekly office hours and provided individualized feedback throughout the semester.
- Recognized with the Distinguished Teaching Award.

Teaching Assistant – Econometrics (ECON 674), Health Economics (ECON 537) & Others | Purdue University *2022 – 2025*

CONFERENCES & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Participant**, Workshop: Mechanism Design, Social Choice, and AI, April 2026
- **Participant**, Southern Economic Association (SEA) Conference, November 2025
- **Participant**, National Tax Association Annual Conference, November 2025
- **Organizer**, Labor Lunch, Economics Department, Purdue University, 2024 – coordinated weekly research seminars
- **Participant**, American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) Conference, June 2023
- **Participant**, United Nations Children's Fund Raising Activity, December 2020

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Economics Research Micro-Grant, Purdue University, 2025
- Distinguished Teaching Award, Purdue University, 2025
- State Outstanding Graduates Award (top 3 of 200), 2020
- First Prize, Product Design and Company Operations, Paris 2020
- First-class Scholarship, Shandong University of Finance and Economics, 2017 & 2019
- Outstanding Graduate Student Cadres, November 2019
- National Third Place, Graduate Risk Management Scheme Design Competition, 9th Risk Management & Actuarial Forum, 2018
- First Prize, Ergo-life Health Insurance Products Design Contest, 2018

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Stata, Python, MATLAB, R

REFERENCES

Victoria Prowse (Chair)
Professor of Economics and Marge Magner Chair
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