

Research Statement

My current work studies the effect of affordable housing policies and educational loans. In particular, I answer the following research questions: 1) what is the effect of affordable housing policies on household behavior and welfare? 2) what is the general equilibrium effect of affordable housing policies? 3) what is the effect of alternative (hypothetical) affordable housing policy reforms? 4) what is the effect of student loans on family formation and homeownership? 5) what is the effect of student loan and job match quality on individuals' living arrangements? I employ both reduced-form approach and structural form methods to understand the role of federal aid policies on individual socioeconomic status. Common themes across my work include the use of a variety of household data sets to estimate a life-cycle model, and exploring not only how current policy affects the household behavior and welfare, but also the implication of alternative policy reforms.

In my job market paper titled “Housing Vouchers, Labor Supply and Household Formation: A Structural Approach”, I study the effect of the U.S. Housing Voucher Program on low-income households' labor supply, family formation, and homeownership. With a variety of household datasets, I specify and estimate a life-cycle model that characterizes the effects of housing vouchers, and then examine how a set of policy reforms impact individual behavior and welfare. In another closely related project, I employ New York City Housing Vacancy Survey data and apply a general equilibrium model to assess the potential impacts of various housing-market policy interventions, i.e., the housing voucher program, cash assistance program, and renter tax credits. I investigate not only the effect on housing and rental prices but also the effect on welfare and inequality. Both projects contribute to the existing labor and housing literature by shedding light on the effect of affordable housing policies.

Another strand of my work focuses on the effect of student loans on family formation, homeownership, and living arrangement. In my co-authored project with Stefania Albanesi, and Rania Gihleb titled “Delayed American Dream? Student debt, Family Formation and Homeownership”, we study the effect of student loans on family formation and homeownership for college graduates. Using the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1979 and 1997), we specify and estimate a life-cycle model of marriage, divorce, labor supply, assets, and homeownership. We characterize how the economic factors including student loans, housing prices, and wages impact family formation and homeownership. In my second-year paper, titled “The Boomerang Kids: Coresidence and Job Mismatch”, my coauthors and I quantify the role of economic factors accounting for the living arrangement and labor market outcome differences between 1996 and 2008 graduation cohorts. Using the Survey of Income and Program Participation data, we estimate the parameters of a dynamic life-cycle model to show that student loans and job match quality can substantially explain the change of living arrangement over time.

I also have a broader research interest in applied microeconomics, with a special focus on family economics and migration. Common themes across this strand of work include the use of novel datasets, i.e. twins data, children foster care data, and administrative refugee data to explore the impact of a variety of policies on individual socioeconomic outcomes. The research topics include intergenerational family transfer, the opioid crisis, and children's foster care, as well as refugee settlement. I have already published the work that studies the effect of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) on child maltreatment and foster cases in the *Journal of Human Resources* and the work that studies the effect of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) on Neonatal Outcomes in the *Journal of Regional Science and Urban Economics*.

One published work of mine (joint with Rania Gihleb and Osea Giuntella), titled "The Opioid Epidemic, Child Maltreatment and Foster Care", investigates the effect of the Opioid Epidemic on child maltreatment and foster care. To identify the effects of the programs on foster care admissions, we exploit the variation across states in the timing of adoption of operational and mandatory Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) using an event-study approach as well as standard difference-in-difference models. In a closely related project, we apply the same methodology to study the effect of PDMPs on NAS incidence across the United States. Another project, titled "Childhood Experience and Children's Altruism Toward Parents: The Twins Experiment", is a co-authored work with Junsen Zhang and Hongliang Zhang. This paper uses the Chinese Twins data (confidential data) to study the effect of send-down movement on adult children's transfer towards parents. We exploit the send-down movement as a social experiment and employ data on urban twins in China to investigate the effect of childhood send-down experience on children's altruism toward parents in adulthood. In addition, I have an ongoing project studying the effect of social services on refugee outcomes. This is a project joint with Neil Silveus and K. Pun Winichakul. We apply a couple of administrative data sets to identify the causal impact of non-governmental social aid, i.e. charitable donations, on refugee outcomes by exploiting the incremental revelation of the Catholic Church scandals in the United States. This project intends to evaluate refugees' economic and social outcomes such as income, hours worked, language skills, and take-up of government welfare programs.

To sum up, my research agenda focuses on macro labor and applied microeconomics, with a special focus on housing, household dynamics and labor market dynamics. I employ both reduced form and structural form to study the effect of a wide range of public policies on household behavior and welfare. For my future research plan, I will work more on exploring the effect of affordable housing policies and the interdisciplinary between housing and inequality as well as the interdisciplinary between housing and labor economics, which are underinvested in the existing literature.