

Sijie Li

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Pittsburgh, Expected: April 2019
Dissertation Committee: Allison Shertzer (co-chair), Randall Walsh (co-chair), Osea Giuntella, Brian Beach (College of William & Mary)
M.A. in Economics, University of Pittsburgh, 2015
M.A. in Economics, Boston University, 2012
B.A. in Economics, Shanghai University of Political Science and Law, 2011

RESEARCH FIELDS: Labor Economics, Public/Urban Economics, Economic History

WORKING PAPERS

[“Competitors and Consumers: The Impact of the Great Migration on Employment Outcomes of Black Northerners”](#) (*Job Market Paper*)
[“Racial Segregation in Housing Markets and the Erosion of Black Wealth”](#) (joint with Prottoy A. Akbar, Allison Shertzer, Randall P. Walsh)
[“Intergenerational Mobility in Prewar America: A Comparison by Race and Regional Origin”](#)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Did Migration Cause Black Family Change in the Urban North?”
“The Labor Market Effect of Racial Identity: Evidence from Census Linked Data” (joint with Osea Giuntella)
“The Geography of Racial Income Disparities in the Promised Land”

RELEVANT POSITIONS HELD

Research Assistant to Professor Allison Shertzer and Randall Walsh, Pitt Department of Economics, spring and summer 2016.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, University of Pittsburgh

Introduction to Macroeconomic Theory (Undergraduate; Summer 2018)

Mentorship, University of Pittsburgh

Graduate Student Peer Mentor (Ph.D. Level; Fall 2018)

Invited Guest Lecturer, University of Pittsburgh

Public Economics (Ph.D. Level; Spring 2018)

Teaching Assistant, University of Pittsburgh

Introduction to Macroeconomic Theory (Undergraduate; Fall 2018)

Introduction to Microeconomics Theory (Undergraduate; Spring 2017/Fall 2016/Fall 2015)

SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Population Association of America Annual Meeting (Session: New Findings on Neighborhoods and Mobility from the Complete Count Census Microdata; Denver, CO; 2018)
The University of Michigan – H2D2 Research Day (Session: History; Ann Arbor, MI; 2018)
Applied Microeconomics Seminar (University of Pittsburgh; Fall, 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017, Spring 2017, Fall 2016, Spring 2016)
Economic History Association Annual Meeting (Poster Session; San Jose, CA; 2017)
Arts and Science GradExpo (University of Pittsburgh; Spring 2017)
Econometrics Workshop (University of Pittsburgh; Fall 2016)
Experimental Lab Group Meeting (University of Pittsburgh; Spring 2016)

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization Travel Grant, University of Pittsburgh, 2018
Graduate & Professional Student Government Travel Grant, University of Pittsburgh, 2018
Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2017-2018
Economic Department Travel Grant, University of Pittsburgh, 2017
Arts and Sciences Summer Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2017 & 2016
Arts and Sciences Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2014-2015
Excellent Bachelor Dissertation Award, SHUPL, 2011
Outstanding Academic Achievement Scholarship, SHUPL, 2009-2010 & 2007-2008

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIPS

Membership:

American Economic Association
Population Association of America
Economic History Association

Journal referee:

The Sociological Quarterly

Department Service:

Graduate Student Representative, 2016-2017

SKILLS

Software:

Stata, MATLAB, ArcGIS, Latex, Python, R, PowerPoint, Excel, QuickBooks

Language:

Mandarin (Native), English (Fluent)

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

Bookkeeper & Realtor, East Coast Realty, Boston, MA, USA, 2012-2013
Volunteer Team Leader, Sun Yat-sen Museum, Shanghai, China, 2009-2011
Summer Intern, HSBC, Shanghai, China, 2010
Third Place, China College Student ERP Simulated Business Competition, 2010
CFA Level II Candidate
Cambridge English Business Higher Certificate

WORKING PAPERS ABSTRACTS

“Competitors and Consumers: The Impact of the Great Migration on Employment Outcomes of Black Northerners” (*Job Market Paper*)

Prior to the Great Migration, there were small communities of middle-class blacks living in the North. While research has investigated the importance of migration improving the fortunes of southern-born blacks, less is known about the impact of the Great Migration on existing black communities. I build a new panel dataset of black northerners to study how the arrival of new black residents shaped their economic fortunes. I exploit variation in the extent of in-migration across northern counties and instrument for black inflows by interacting pre-existing demographic patterns in the South with earlier black settlement patterns in the North. I find that in-migration resulted in significantly less employment but better occupational attainment for black northerners in 1930. The evidence shows that the effect of southern black in-migration on northern-born black outcomes is nuanced: low status northern-born blacks experienced more competition in the labor market, while high status northern-born blacks benefited more from occupational upgrading opportunities generated by in-migration.

“Racial Segregation in Housing Markets and the Erosion of Black Wealth” (joint with Prottoy A. Akbar, Allison Shertzer, Randall P. Walsh)

Housing is the most important asset for the vast majority of American households and a key driver of racial disparities in wealth. This paper studies how residential segregation by race eroded black household wealth in U.S. cities. Using a novel sample of matched addresses from prewar American cities, we find that rental prices and occupancy soared by about 40 percent in blocks that transitioned from all white to majority black. However, home values fell on average by 10 percent over the first decade of racial transition and by a staggering 50 percent in major African American destinations such as Chicago, Philadelphia, and Detroit. These findings suggest that, because of the segregated housing market, black families faced dual barriers to wealth accumulation: they paid more in rent for similar housing while the homes they were able to purchase rapidly declined in value.

“Intergenerational Mobility in Prewar America: A Comparison by Race and Regional Origin”

Studies examining the racial difference in intergenerational mobility in the early twentieth century have mainly focused on southern blacks. Yet, small communities of middle-class blacks existed in the North prior to the Great Migration. These northern blacks began with a relatively better socioeconomic background than southern blacks and might have been better at capitalizing on their advantage in occupational attainment. Through building new samples of northerners with intergenerational linkages between 1910 and 1930, this paper shows that northern-born blacks had a different father-son occupational association from southern-born blacks; moreover, the father-son occupational association of northern-born blacks resembles more closely to that of northern-born whites than that of southern-born blacks. While the black-white mobility gap in this period would have closed in the South if blacks had the same occupational opportunity as whites, it would persist in the North. These findings suggest that heterogeneity shaped by regional origin within and across racial groups should not be overlooked in addressing racial disparities in economic mobility.

REFERENCES

Professor Allison Shertzer (co-chair)
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Professor Randall Walsh (co-chair)
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PLACEMENT OFFICERS

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