

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Department of Economics  
University of California, Davis  
One Shields Avenue  
Davis, CA 95616

(530) 219-2231  
xhzhang@ucdavis.edu  
<http://xhzhang.weebly.com>  
Citizenship: Chinese

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Major: Health Economics, Public and Labor Economics,  
Minor: Applied Econometrics, Development Economics

**EDUCATION**

**University of California at Davis**, Davis, CA, USA

Ph.D., Economics, Expected June 2015

- Dissertation: Childhood Health and Labor Market Outcomes in Adulthood
- Board Members: Marianne E. Page (chair), Douglas L. Miller, Shu Shen, Ann H. Stevens

**Fudan University**

M.A., Economics, 2009

B.A., Economics, 2005

**OTHER AFFILIATION**

**Center for Poverty Research, UC Davis**

**JOB MARKET PAPER****Children of The Mortality Revolution–Infectious Diseases and Long Run Outcomes**

This paper studies the effect of infectious disease exposure in early childhood on adult labor market outcomes. I exploit the exogenous variations in public health projects and drug innovations during the Mortality Revolution (1901-1955) in the United States, an era with unmatched mortality decline driven by innovations in disease control technologies. I create an index of early childhood disease exposure that exploits cross-state variation in pre-intervention disease prevalence, and time variation arising from medical innovations during this period. The results indicate that higher disease prevalence in childhood largely reduces adult education attainment and earnings. The technology innovations contributed to roughly 10% of the changes in labor market outcomes between the 1901 and 1955 cohorts. The effect per unit of mortality decline is stronger in the second half of this period (1937-1955), when medication such as penicillin and sulfa drugs were introduced. The result also sheds light on the benefit of controlling infectious diseases in the developing world.

**OTHER PAPERS****Distributional Tests for Regression Discontinuity: Theory and Empirical Examples, with Shu Shen, revise and resubmit at, *The Review of Economics and Statistics*.**

This paper proposes consistent testing methods that can be used to examine the effect of a policy treatment on the whole distribution of response outcomes within the settings of a regression discontinuity design. Such methods are useful when economists or policy makers expect heterogeneous treatment effects resulting from unobservables. The test statistics are based on local linear estimators of distributional treatment effects and local distributional treatment effects of compliers. They are constructed using Kolmogorov-Smirnov-type test statistics and are asymptotically distribution-free when the data are i.i.d. The proposed tests are applied to multiple empirical studies. It is shown that the distributional tests are useful complements to the classic mean regression discontinuity methods as they potentially offer more information than mean analyses.

**The Kids Will Be Alright: Long Term Effects of “Growing Up” During a Recession, with Marianne Page.**

A growing literature in economics documents that in-utero shocks affect individuals' human capital in later life. Most of this evidence focuses on extreme health shocks. However, we are among the first to document how less severe but more pervasive economic crises experienced during childhood affect adult economic outcomes. To do this, we assemble a unique dataset that links adults in the American Community Survey with historical business cycle indicators.

Identification comes from variation in economic conditions across cohorts defined by state and year of birth. Unlike the existing literature, we find little evidence that individuals exposed to poor economic conditions in early childhood suffer long-term economic consequences. These findings suggest that more “typical” variation experienced by children is of minimal importance.

WORK IN PROGRESS	<p><b>The Power of Plan B: The Impacts of Over-The-Counter Availability of Emergency Contraception, with Lester Lusher.</b></p> <p><b>The Alcohol Prohibition in U.S., with David Jacks, Hitoshi Shigeoka, and Krishna Pendakur</b></p> <p><b>Distributional Effect of Minimum Drinking Age Law on Young Parents and Their Children</b></p> <p><b>Re-examine the Elite Illusion: Distributional Achievement Effects at New York Exam Schools</b></p> <p><b>Copper Price and Child Test Scores - Evidence from Chile, joint with Juan Tapia Gertosio</b></p> <p><b>Financing the Health Care for the Aging Chinese</b></p>
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	<p>University of California at Davis</p> <p>Research Assistant for Professor Marianne Page, January-December 2013, March-June 2014.</p> <p>Research Assistant for Professor Shu Shen, September-December 2012.</p>
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<p>University of California at Davis</p> <p>Instructor</p> <p>Undergraduate Health Economics Research</p> <p>Teaching Assistant</p> <p>Labor Economics, Human Resource, Development Economics, Intermediate Microeconomics, Health Economics, Game Theory, Economic History from Colonial Period, Economic History after the Civil War</p> <p>Sanhe High School, Ningxia, China</p> <p>Full-time Volunteer Teacher, 2005-2006.</p>
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	<p>All-California Labor Economics Conference (Poster), Berkeley, California, September 2014.</p> <p>Western Economic Association International, Denver, Colorado, June 2014.</p> <p>War on Poverty Conference (Poster), UC Davis, Center for Poverty Research, January 2014.</p> <p>The 23rd Annual Meeting of the Midwest Econometrics Group, Indiana University Bloomington, October 2013.</p> <p>All-California Labor Economics Conference (Poster), UC San Diego, September 2013.</p> <p>Poverty and the Long Term Effects of Early Life Experiences (Poster), UC Davis, Center for Poverty Research, May 2013.</p>
AWARDS	<p>Academic</p> <p>UC Davis Graduate Fellowship for 2014-2015, 2014.</p> <p>IGA/Department of Economics Travel and Research Award, UC Davis, 2014.</p> <p>UC Davis Department and Dean Research Grant, 2013.</p> <p>All-UC Graduate Student Research Grant, 2012.</p> <p>Non-resident tuition fellowship, UC Davis, 2010-2012.</p> <p>Field Research Grant by Ministry of Education of the PRC, code: 07JZD0023. “Psychology, Stay-at-home Status and Social Interaction of Students in Xiji”, 2008.</p> <p>National People’s Scholarship, Fudan University, 2002-2005, 2006-2009.</p>

Teaching

Inspiring NingXia – Ten Exceptional Contributors to NingXia (won for contribution to education), 2006.

SERVICES

Graduate Recruit Correspondent for the Class of 2015  
Initiated and Organized Undergraduate Research Group, 2014  
Undergraduate Research Assistant Supervisor for the Center for Poverty Research, 2014.  
Conference Assistance for Center for Poverty Research and China Poverty Alleviation and Development Bureau, 2013  
Graduate Student Mentor, 2011

LANGUAGES

Mandarin (native), English (fluent), French (basic)

REFERENCES

Professor Marianne E. Page  
University of California, Davis  
mepage@ucdavis.edu  
(530) 554-4940

Professor Douglas L. Miller  
University of California, Davis  
dlmiller@ucdavis.edu  
(530) 902-9629

Professor Shu Shen  
University of California, Davis  
shushen@ucdavis.edu  
(530) 752-9241

Professor Ann H. Stevens  
University of California, Davis  
annstevens@ucdavis.edu  
(530) 752-3034