

Zihan Hu

Email: zh282@cornell.edu
Homepage: <https://www.zihanhuecon.com/>

PERSONAL

Date of Birth: 16 July 1991

Citizenship: China

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University, 2017-present

Master (by Research), Economics, National University of Singapore, 2014-2017.

A.B., Economics, Peking University, 2009-2014.

RESEARCH FIELDS

Labor Economics and Health Economics (with a regional focus on developing countries)

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Red Wilson Excellence in Economics Medal, Department of Economics, Cornell University, 2019

Small Grants in Labor Economics, Department of Economics, Cornell University, 2019

Gregory Chow Best Paper Award, Chinese Economists Society, 2018

PUBLICATIONS

Hu, Z., & Li, T. (2019). Too hot to handle: The effects of high temperatures during pregnancy on adult welfare outcomes. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 94, 236-253.

WORKING PAPERS

Nutrition, Labor Supply, and Productivity: Evidence from Ramadan in Indonesia (with Zhiwen Wang, under review)

Abstract: This paper studies the short-term effects of nutrition deficiency on labor supply and productivity. Using high-frequency administrative data from a retail chain in Indonesia, we exploit the nutrition shock induced by Ramadan fasting among Muslim salespersons, a non-physically demanding occupation. Based on an event study approach and comparing Muslim and non-Muslim salespersons, we show immediate, adverse effects of nutrition deficiency on labor supply and productivity. Specifically, we find a 30% decrease in productivity for Muslim salespersons during the two hours before sunset, when they experience the most energy deficiency. Their productivity recovers immediately after sunset, when they can break their fast. They leave work 32 minutes earlier during the hours of greatest energy deficiency. These effects are in line with the nutrition mechanism and are not likely driven by major competing explanations such as demand shocks, fast-breaking events, dehydration, and sleep deprivation.

Presentation: AASLE, Singapore (2019, scheduled); NEUDC, Chicago (2019); WEA, San Francisco (2019); ASHEcon, D.C. (2019); WEA International, Tokyo (2019); Cornell Health Economics Seminar (2019); Peking University Labor Economics Workshop (2019); Beijing Normal University (2018); Cornell PIERS (2018)

Fertility Transition in China: Does the One-Child Policy Matter? (with Gordon Liu and Samantha Vortherms)

Abstract: This paper provides some evidence of the non-binding nature of the One Child Policy, suggesting a minimal impact of the policy on fertility rates. In October 2015, China announced the shift to a two-child policy, ending thirty-five years of One-Child Policy Implementation in an attempt to increase fertility rates. But the true determinant of fertility reduction is difficult to parse out. If socio-economic development dropped fertility rates close to the one-child quota, policy liberalization will have little impact of total fertility rate. We take advantage of rich census data and variation in policy implementation of the One and a Half Child Policy (OHCP), a loosening of the Strict One Child Policy (SOCP) in 1984, to evaluate how fertility responded to a loosening of policy. Using multiple waves of census data, we estimate a Triple-Differences model with both pre- and post-policy measures, interacted with the first-born child gender to identify the treatment effect of the OHCP against the SOCP as a control group. We find minimal differences in fertility between the two groups, suggesting that most eligible couples voluntarily forwent this extra quota, pointing to the minimal impact the One Child Policy has on fertility rates. Our findings suggest that China's fertility transition, to a large extent, is not attributable to the one-child policy and policy liberalizations are unlikely to lead to a direct increase in fertility.

Presentation: NBER-CCER, Beijing (2015)

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS EXPERIENCES

2018.6 - present, Professor Michael Lovenheim and Professor Nicholas Sanders

2014-2017, Professor Jessica Pan

2015-2017, Professor Davin Chor

2012-2015, Professor Yuyu Chen

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

2016.6-2016.8, Statistics, Part-time Instructor for MBA

2013.2-2014.1, Econometrics, TA for Professor Qingjie Xia

2012.9-2013.1, Topics on Development Economics, TA for Professor Pengfei Zhang