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CURRENT POSITIONS

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Lecturer

Aug. 2011-Present

Computer Room-in-charge

MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAM IN ECONOMICS, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Convener, Promotion and Recruitment Committee

Aug. 2017 – Present

Convener, Student Affairs & Career Support Committee

Aug. 2017 – Present

MARKPRICE.AI

Founder

PAST POSITIONS

Associate Director, CUHK M.Sc. Program in Economics

Nov. 2012 – Jul. 2017

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley

Ph.D. in Economics

2011

Cornell University

B.A. *cum laude* and Distinction in All Subjects

2005

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2018 Teaching Development and Language Enhancement Grant (\$98,050 HKD)

2016 UGC Micro-Module Courseware Development Grant Scheme (\$35,744 HKD)

2010 CUHK Direct Grant (\$24154 HKD)

2009 UC Berkeley Population Center Research Grant (\$16,000 USD)

2009 UC Berkeley Institute for Business Research Mini Grant (\$1000 USD)

2009 Russell Sage Foundation Small Grant (\$4600 USD)

2008 Dean Normative Time Fellowship

TEACHING

Undergraduate

Economic Analysis of Social Networks, Economics of Behavioral Finance, Basic Microeconomics, Perspectives in Economics, Mathematical Methods in Economics I, Learning Economics, Theory and Reality, Guided Studies in Current Economic Problems, Contemporary Economic Thinking

Workshops

Introduction to Stata, Simulation with Stata, Introduction to Python, Data Classification with Python, Visual Basic for Applications

Event Organization: [CUHK Economics Project Exhibition](#) 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Best Paper Awards: Ding Yilan, Hu Ye, Lin Pin Yu and Liu Jinci (2017), Ka Yi Kyli Li (2014, 2012), Chow Man Kin (2012), Hung Yui Paul Cheung (2012)

Undergraduate students advised and admitted to graduate programs:

Fall 2017: Li Qianrui (CUHK M.Phil.), Yang Minjin (CUHK M.Phil.)

Fall 2016: Hung Yui Paul Cheung (Maryland PhD), Joanne Lau (HKU PhD),
Lu Peiting (CUHK M.Sc.)
Fall 2014: Hung Yui Paul Cheung (CUHK M.Phil.), Chow Man Kin (Warrick M.Sc.),
Edmond Lee (UCL M.Sc.), Joanne Lau (CUHK M.Phil.)
Fall 2012: Man Ki Ryan Ip (LSE M.Sc.), Ka Yi Kyli Li (CUHK M.Phil.)

PUBLICATION

Gaming Behavior

“Addiction, self-control, and habit in online game playing: evidence from a field experiment” with Dan Acland. Forthcoming at Journal of the Economic Science Association.

Presented in: Department of Economics, University of California, Berkeley

Abstract: We examine the utilization of commitment devices on an online word game that has few substitutes. The experimental environment allows us to accurately measure time spent on the game based on the activities of over 55,000 players. We find that approximately one-quarter of treatment-group players make use of one or both of the devices at least twice. In any given week, approximately 15% of active players make use of the devices, with the median user implementing one or other of the devices in 75% or more of game sessions. The treatment effect on session length was a reduction of approximately 3% for the treatment group as a whole, translating into as much as a 13% reduction for the group of users specifically. Overall the average reduction in games per week was 6.5% for the treatment group as a whole, and as much as a 28% reduction for users specifically.

WORKING PAPERS

Machine Learning

“Predicting Auction Price of Vehicle License Plate with Deep Recurrent Neural Network”

Presented in: Taiwan Artificial Intelligence Annual Meeting 2017 (invited paper)

Media exposure: [“Art market ripe for disruption by algorithms”](#) *Financial Times*. May 26 2017.

Abstract: In Chinese societies where superstition is of paramount importance, vehicle license plates with desirable numbers can fetch for very high prices in auctions. Unlike auctions of other valuable items, however, license plates do not get an estimated price before auction. In this paper, I propose that the task of predicting plate prices can be viewed as a natural language processing task, because the value of a plate depends on the meaning of each individual character on the plate as well as the semantics. I construct a deep recurrent neural network to predict the prices of vehicle license plates in Hong Kong based on the characters on a plate. Trained with 13-years of historical auction prices, the deep RNN outperforms previous models by significant margin.

“Regression Adjustment with Artificial Neural Network”

Presented in: Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society 2016 and CUHK Applied Microeconomics Brown Bag series

Abstract: Recent advance in statistical techniques and computational power have brought new ways to model complex data. At the center of these breakthroughs are artificial neural networks (ANN), biologically-inspired models that have been shown to be highly effective in modelling language, speech and image data. In this paper, I use simulations to study whether ANN can be used to estimate unobserved effects across a range of different data types.

Education

“Challenges in Changing Social Norms: Evidence from Interventions Targeting Child Marriage in Ethiopia” with Eva Vivalt. Under review.

Presented in: Pacific Conference for Development Economics 2016 and Department of Economics, University of Oregon

Abstract: We study a set of interventions in Ethiopia geared towards eliminating child marriage. This is the first impact evaluation of a set of interventions specifically geared towards reducing child marriage, rather than obtaining a reduction of child marriage as a side effect. The interventions provide economic incentives and information about the potential harms of early marriage. Changing social norms is often thought of as very difficult, and it might be especially hard to change the typical age at first marriage given that marriage involves a matching problem. Regardless, we see clear evidence that both interventions reduce early marriage by about 8 percentage points. We also observe some positive spillover effects: the program appears to have increased the intra-household decision-making power of women. However, we find suggestive evidence that acceptance of violence against women may have increased and some evidence of increased polarization in beliefs about child marriage.

“How Rational Are Children?”

Presented in: Department of Economics, University of California, Berkeley and Department of Economics, University of Oregon

Abstract: This study revisits the question of children's decision-making quality in light of the methodological shortcomings in early studies. Utilizing improved techniques and a considerably larger subject pool, I estimated that young children are significantly less consistent than previously reported. I find significant improvement in consistency between junior and senior elementary school students, with moderate evidence that the effect is mostly due to aging. I also confirm students' mathematics performance is significantly correlated with consistency, and that students' age, education and mathematics performance are all significantly correlated with their risk preference.

Gaming Behavior

“Demand for a Commitment Device in Online Gaming”

Presented in: 2014 International Meetings of the Economic Science Association and Department of Economics, University of California, Berkeley

Media Exposure: 《中大講師用塞勒實驗研學生打機》蘋果日報。2017年10月10日。

Abstract: The amount of time youth spend on game-playing is significant, with a recent representative survey pinning the number at 0.84 hours per day. To investigate the extent to which gameplaying can be attributed to self-control problems, I implemented a field experiment on a type of widely played multiplayer online games. I monitored the amount of time 105 undergraduates spent playing online games for a period of 3.5 months. Students assigned to the treatment group were additionally given software that they could use to limit their duration of play.

I found that the demand for commitment appears limited—while 79 percent of the treatment subjects used the software voluntarily in the first four weeks, the fraction eventually dropped to around 5 percent. At the end of the experiment, 10.4 percent of treatment subjects had a positive willingness-to-pay for the software. There is suggestive evidence that usage of the commitment device reduces duration of play but not frequency of play—subjects in the treatment group played

an estimated 66.4 percent less than those in the control group, as measured by total hours played. The difference is driven by a reduction among heavy players, and persists even after most subjects stopped using the devices. Lastly, I find that players on average overestimated how long they would play.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Referee: Journal of the European Economic Association

SERVICES

Department:

Department Web Page Coordinator
Co-convener, Publication Committee
Member, Programme Committee for Self-financed MSc Programme
Member, Graduate Panel
Member, Staff/student Consultation Committee
Member, Teaching & Learning Quality Committee
Member, Admissions Committee
Member, Scholarship & Internship Committee
Member, Committee on Alumni Affairs
Member, Committee on General Education Courses
Member, Publicity Committee
UG Level I and II Academic Advisor
Academic Counsellor for Year 1 students

College and University:

Member, Executive Committee of HKIAPS Economic Research Center
Interviewer for CUHK Office of Academic Links
Member, Chung Chi College Publication Committee
Teacher Participant, Chung Chi English Table
Teacher Participant, Chung Chi Assembly
Dept. Representative, College Photo Days

External:

Director, Incorporated Management Committee. SKH Ho Chak Wan Primary School
Director, Incorporated Management Committee. SKH Tsing Yi Ho Chak Wan Primary School
Invited talk, SKHTKP Secondary School

OTHER INFORMATION

Languages: English, Cantonese and Mandarin
Citizenship: Hong Kong, China