

**XUEZHU SHI**

**LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Department of Economics**

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**GENDER:** Female

**CITIZENSHIP:** Chinese

**PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES:**

2013-2014 MRes in Economics (with Merit), London School of Economics  
2012-2013 MSc in Economics (with Distinction), London School of Economics  
2008-2012 B.B.A in Accounting and Economics, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

**DOCTORAL STUDIES:** London School of Economics

DATES: 2014 - present

THESIS TITLE: *"Essays in Health, Public Insurance, and Old-age Support in China"*

EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE: June 2019

**THESIS ADVISOR AND REFERENCES:**

Professor Robin Burgess (Advisor)  
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**DESIRED TEACHING AND RESEARCH:**

Primary Fields: Public Economics, Development Economics

Secondary Fields: Family Economics, Health Economics

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

2018 Dissertation tutor, Department of Management  
2018 Class Teacher, Introduction to Stata (Graduate)  
2017 Class Teacher, EC270 Public Finance summer session  
2015-2018 Class Teacher, EC325 Public Economics  
2014-2015 Class Teacher, EC230 Economics in Public Policy

**RELEVANT POSITIONS HELD:**

2014 Research Assistant, Professor Paolo Surico and Dr. Keyu Jin  
2013-2015 Research Assistant, Professor Frank Cowell  
2011 Intern for Index Research, FTSE, Hong Kong

**LANGUAGES**

Basic Spoken Japanese	Fluent Spoken Mandarin, English, Cantonese
Basic Written Japanese	Fluent Written Chinese, English

**HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS:**

2017 Royal Economic Society (RES) Conference Travel Grant  
2016 Royal Economic Society (RES) Conference Travel Grant  
2016 STICERD Research Grant (Together with Prof. Cowell and Dr. Costa-i-Font)  
2015-2016 Postgraduate Travel Grant, LSE  
2008 Kerry Holdings Limited Scholarship, HKUST

**COMPLETED PAPERS:**

***Job Market Paper:***

[\*“The Role of Social Norms in Old-age Support: Evidence from China”\*](#)

Intergenerational old-age support within families is an important norm in developing countries, which typically lack comprehensive pension coverage. The transmission mechanism for this norm is potentially influenced by socioeconomic factors internal and external to the family, which the norm may in turn influence. This paper studies the inter-generational transmission of this social norm in China, focusing on the role of gender. The mechanism behind this transmission is that parents, by their provision of support to their own parents, shape their same-gender children's preference for old-age support. Given that the gender ratio of Chinese children is not random, I use an interaction term of the timing of the ban on sex-

selective abortions in China and the gender of the first-born child as the instrumental variable for the gender of the children to alleviate the possible endogeneity. The empirical results, using two Chinese datasets, show that parents with more same-gender children provide more support to their ageing parents than parents with cross-gender ones. The father effect is more significant in rural subsamples, and the mother effect is seen mainly in the urban ones. The urban-rural difference in the results may indicate a normative shift accompanying economic and demographic changes.

**Other Papers:**

[\*“The Impact of China’s One-Child Policy on Intergenerational and Gender Relations”\*](#)  
(Together with Yang Hu, In: *Contemporary Social Science*)

Drawing on data from the China Family Panel Studies, this article assesses the state of gender equality among Chinese children under the one-child policy. We demonstrate the importance of conducting intra-gender and inter-gender comparisons taking into account the perspectives of parents and children and the intergenerational (in)congruence between these two perspectives. Our results show that parents invest more financial resource and time in educating singleton than non-singleton children, which partially supports the hypothesis of intra-gender equality. The findings for children’s subjective perceptions of their own life circumstances do not consistently support this hypothesis. Since gender differences in intergenerational investment and children’s subjective perceptions varied little by sibship structure, the hypothesis of inter-gender equality is not consistently supported. We found a stronger negative association between the presence of male and elder siblings and intergenerational investment in girls, and a larger male–female gap in intergenerational investment in urban than in rural areas. We also report a considerable intergenerational incongruence between parents’ and children’s perspectives. Our findings call into question the effectiveness of intervening solely in parental behaviour and intergenerational investment to enhance children’s outcomes. They underline the importance of considering both intra-gender and inter-gender inequalities in moving the gender revolution forward.

*“Locked out? China’s New Cooperative Medical Scheme and Rural Labour Migration”*  
(Complete)

Providing health insurance only to rural residents could decrease the percentage of migrants (migration propensity) in rural areas. This paper tests whether the new rural health insurance, the New Cooperative Medical Scheme (NCMS), has a “job-lock” effect on rural-to-urban migration in China. Utilising a novel dataset collected from provincial yearbooks in China, the results show that NCMS reduces the growth rate of the migration propensity within counties, but no evidence that it reduces the county-level migration propensity. Using the China Health and Nutrition Survey (CHNS), I find that being enrolled in NCMS decreases the probability of being a migrant at individual-level, especially for males. I also use CHNS to construct a county-level dataset and replicate the county results. Together, the results imply that NCMS gradually locks the rural labour force into rural areas and further hinders job mobility in China.

**RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:**

*“Compulsory Acquisition and Expropriation: Wealth Shocks on Health and Healthcare”*  
(Work-in-progress)

In the health-wealth nexus literature, many studies have established strong correlations between wealth and different measures of health status. The endogeneity problem between health and wealth is severe. Scholars have studied the topic using exogenous shocks, such as lottery prizes and inheritances, to solve the endogeneity problem. The paper proposes a novel approach to tackle the endogeneity: use the compensation from compulsory acquisitions of land and properties as an exogenous wealth shock. I use

the average housing price at community-level together with the events of compulsory acquisitions of land and properties as instrumental variables. While many studies focus on this nexus in developed countries, the paper also sheds light on the health-wealth nexus in developing countries that have not been thoroughly examined before. Using the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Survey (CHARLS), I find that the wealth compensation negatively affects the total healthcare expenditure and the number of stays in hospitals. The effects on the likelihood of reaching the expected age are positive. For self-assessed health, the effects are negative and insignificant, but for objective health measurements, the results show positive and significant wealth effects.

*“Measurement of Health Inequality after a Public Insurance Expansion in the United States and China”  
(Work-in-progress. Together with Joan Costa-Font and Frank Cowell)*

We examine the inequality in the distribution of self-reported health status in two countries that do not have universal health insurance but have expanded their insurance provision further in the last decades. More specifically, we draw on individual data from the United States and China (the National Health Interview Survey, 1970-2014, and the China Health and Nutrition Survey, 1991-2006) to examine the inequality patterns before and after the public health insurance expansion. We use recently developed techniques of inequality measurement for categorical data to compare inequality in China and the US depending on a number of assumptions on status. We find three different sets of results. First, we find differences in inequality estimates after insurance expansion. However, whether health inequality is larger in the United States or China depends on the measure of status, and the sensitivity-to-inequality parameter employed. Second, regional distribution of health inequality is far from homogenous and exhibits significant differences depending on the measure of status and especially the sensitivity parameter. Finally, we find robust evidence that regional differences in health inequality are sensitive to health insurance expansions, especially in the United States.

*“Do Public Pensions Crowd-Out Intra-Family Transfers? Evidence from Rural China”  
(Work-in-progress. Together with Arthur Seibold)*

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:**

- 2019 ASSA Annual Meeting (Poster Session, scheduled), Atlanta
- 2018 RES PhD Meeting 2018 (scheduled), London
- ES European Winter Meeting (scheduled), Naples
- 43<sup>rd</sup> SAEe (scheduled), Madrid
- China Meeting of the Econometric Society, Shanghai
- Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society, Seoul
- 2017 European Doctorate Programme (EDP) Jamboree, Bonn
- Transatlantic Doctoral Conference, LBS, London
- Royal Economic Society (RES) Annual Meeting, Bristol
- 2016 28th EALE Conference, Gent
- Royal Economic Society (RES) Annual Meeting, Brighton
- Winter School on Inequality and Social Welfare Theory, Alba di Canazei
- 2015 8th IAB PhD Workshop, Nuremberg