

HIU FUNG TAM

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & POLITICAL SCIENCE

Department of Economics

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GENDER: M

CITIZENSHIP: Hong Kong

PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES:

MRes in Economics (Track 2) , (Distinction) London School of Economics and Political Sciences	2011-2012
MSc in Economics (Research) , (Distinction) London School of Economics and Political Sciences	2009-2010
Bachelor of Social Science in Economics (Advanced Economics, First Class Honours) The Chinese University of Hong Kong	2004-2008

DOCTORAL STUDIES: London School of Economics

DATES: 2012 – present (expected date: June 2017)

THESIS TITLE: "Essays in Public and Development Economics"

EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE: 2017

THESIS ADVISOR AND REFERENCES:

Prof. Maitreesh Ghatak (Supervisor)
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DESIRED TEACHING AND RESEARCH:

Primary Fields: Public Economics, Development Economics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Teaching Fellow/Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, LSE
2015-2016 EC402 MSc Econometrics
2012-2013, 2014-2015 EC201 Microeconomics Principles
2013,2014 EC400 MSc Probability and statistics september pre-sessional course
2013-2014 EC102B Economics B – Economics specialist

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, UCL
2014-2015 MRes/PhD Microeconomics
2014-2015 MSc Applied Development Economics and Policy
2015 MSc Economics of Migration

RELEVANT POSITIONS HELD:

2015-2016 Teaching Fellow, Department of Economics, LSE
2014-2015 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, UCL
2012-2014 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, LSE

LANGUAGES

Native Spoken/Written
Cantonese/ Chinese

Fluent Spoken
English, Mandarin

Fluent Written
English

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

2011-2014 ESRC DTC Studentship
2011-2012 Departmental Prize for Outstanding Performance in MRes Examinations,
Department of Economics, LSE
2009 The Chairman's Award for Excellent Undergraduate Paper,
Department of Economics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

COMPLETED PAPERS:

Job Market Paper:

“Behavioural response to time notches in transaction tax: Evidence from stamp duty in Hong Kong and Singapore”

To moderate speculation in housing market, multiple Asian cities implemented transaction tax notches on holding period of property. Using administrative transaction record of property trading, this paper studies the behavioural response in the timing of transaction, tax incidence and selection of buyers using the policy changes in Hong Kong and Singapore. Tax notches on holding period generate significant tax avoidance bunching in the timing of transaction, and properties were less likely to be resold even one year after the tax last applies, suggesting plausible crowd out of transactions. I construct and use a new dataset on government estimated rental rate to estimate the tax incidence and find evidence that buyers bear significant tax burden even when tax-free alternatives are available in the market. Evidence shows that time notches on holding duration produce selection effect among buyers with different ex ante probability of trade in the taxable holding period. Estimates suggest that traders on average are willing to wait for 3-4 weeks to avoid 1% of transaction tax, and each week of delay in transaction would generate loss in the trading surplus at 0.2-0.3 % of property value.

Other Papers:

“On the Quantity and Quality of Girls: New Evidence on Abortion, Fertility, and Parental Investments” (with S Bhalotra and S Anukriti) IZA Discussion Paper No. 10271. (submitted)

The introduction of prenatal sex-detection technologies in India has led to a phenomenal increase in abortion of female fetuses. We investigate their impact on son-biased fertility stopping behavior, parental investments in girls relative to boys, and the relative chances of girls surviving after birth. We find a moderation of son-biased fertility, erosion of gender gaps in breastfeeding and immunization, and complete convergence in the post-neonatal mortality rates of boys and girls. For every five aborted girls, we estimate that roughly one additional girl survives to age five. The results are not driven by endogenous compositional shifts, being robust to the inclusion of mother fixed effects. Our findings have implications not only for counts of missing girls but also for the later life outcomes of girls, conditioned by greater early life investments in them.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:

“British colonial gender laws and gender differential human capital investment in India” (With S Roy)

We study the long run impact of historical legal reforms on matrimonial law introduced by the British within British provinces in 1800s and early 1900s on female education and under age marriages in post-Independent India, exploiting quasi-random variations of districts that were former British Provinces within each post-independent Indian states. From three independent sources of large scale micro data, that includes administrative records from schools and representative household surveys, we find that in former British Provinces females have 5% lower chances of marrying under the current legal age of 18 years, and 1.6% higher chance of attending school between the ages of 10-16 years, than those in the Princely States, where legal reforms in family matters were scant before 1947. We further digitize data on marriage status of population between 5-15 years at district level, from historical Census of India 1901-1951, to estimate the impact of Child Marriage abolition Act (1931) which raised the minimum age of marriage for female to 14.