

Sophie Danqing Shen

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Research Interests

Public Economics, Demography, Economics of Education, Labor Economics

Education

Ph.D Economics, Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN) <i>Committee: Victoria Prowse (co-chair), Timothy Bond(co-chair), Kevin Mumford, John Barron</i>	August 2018 (Expected)
M.A. Applied Economics, St. Cloud State University (St. Cloud, MN)	August 2013.
B.S. International Trade and Economics, Nankai University Binhai College (China)	June 2012.

Job Market Paper

"Marriage, Divorce, and sorting: A Reassessment of Unilateral Divorce Laws."

Work Paper

"The Links Between Teen Behavior, Education, and Driving- Evidence from No Pass, No Drive Policies"
Joint with Kendall Kennedy (Purdue University)

"The Effect of Quality of Post-secondary Education on Marriage Stability"

Work in progress

"Unilateral Divorce Laws and Children's Outcome"

"The Effect of Unilateral Divorce Laws on Marital Sorting "

"Does Free Community College Help?"

"White's Education and Black's Employment: Labor Market Discrimination"

"The effect of SNAP Distribution Schedule on Health Outcome"

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Awards and Grants

Krannert School of Management/Graduate School Scholarship	Fall 2017-2018
Graduate Assistant Scholarship	2012-2013
Outstanding Dissertation, Outstanding Graduates	2012
People Third Prize Scholarship	2011
People First Prize Scholarship	2009-2010

Research Experience

Research Assistant to Tim Bond	Fall 2016
Research Assistant to Miguel Sarzosa	Summer 2017

Teaching Experience

Course Instructor:

Econ 210 Principles of Economics (Online)	Summer 2015, Fall 2015
Econ 251 Microeconomics	Spring 2016 (Two Sections)

Recitation Instructor:

Econ 210 Principles of Economics	Spring 2014
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Teaching Assistant:

Econ 340 Intermediate Microeconomics	Spring 2017, Spring 2015
Econ 451 Game Theory	Spring 2015
Econ 352 Intermediate Macroeconomics	Fall 2014, Spring 2014
Econ 380 Money and Banking	Spring 2014

Professional Activities

Conference and Seminar Presentations:

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)	Fall 2017
Southern Economics Association Conference (SEA)	Fall 2017
Krannert PhD Research Symposium	Fall 2017
Krannert PhD Research Symposium	Fall 2016

Conference Discussant:

Southern Economics Association Conference (SEA)	Fall 2017
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Membership:

Canadian Economics Association (CEA)
Southern Economics Association (SEA)
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)
American Economics Association (AEA)

Non-Professional Activities

Center for Access & Opportunity at St. Cloud State University	Spring 2012
Tianjin (China) Kimwan Carbon Technology and Development Co. Ltd	Summer 2010

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Skills

Software: Stata, MatLab

Languages: English & Chinese

Paper Abstract

"Marriage, Divorce, and sorting: A Reassessment of Unilateral Divorce Laws." (Job Market Paper)

I examine the effect of unilateral divorce laws (UDLs) on risks of divorce of marital cohorts. Especially, I evaluate the impact of the law on divorce through two distinct channels, the direct effect of UDLs on divorce (*divorce effect*), and the effect on divorce through initial marital sorting (*sorting effect*). UDLs have *divorce effect* on couples that get divorced with the existence of UDLs. *sorting effect* is only experienced by couples that married under UDLs. I use differences in timing of state' enactment of UDLs as a source of exogenous treatment variation in a difference-in-difference approach. Using Divorce and Marriage file of Vital Statistics from NBER data collection, I define marital cohort on the basis of the year of marriage, and the risks of divorce of each cohort depends on marriage duration at state level. I defined two types of divorce rates to measure marriage stability. The first is lifetime risks of divorce that includes all divorces of a cohort within certain years of marriage, and the second is hazard risks of divorce that measures likelihood of divorce of a cohort in each single year of marriage. Particularly, my results indicate that UDLs have profound impact on marriage stability through *sorting effect*. *sorting effect* significantly increases lifetime risks of divorce within different length of marriage, while *divorce effect* is only significantly associate with increasing risks of divorce within 9 years and has no effect in other years. I find that 5% increase in lifetime risks of divorce within 9 years of marriage are due to *sorting effect*, while only 2.2% is caused by *divorce effect*. In addition, marriages dissolve fast due to changes in marital sorting. *sorting effect* increases divorces at each year of the first 5 years by 4.5%, while it is zero for *divorce effect*. In addition, I find that 38% initial increase in divorce per 1000 population that identified in previous studies is due to *sorting effect*.

"The Links Between Teen Behavior, Education, and Driving- Evidence from No Pass, No Drive Policies" Joint with Kendall Kennedy (Purdue University)

This study examines the behavioral effects of No Pass, No Drive policies - a group of low cost negative incentive policies that tie teen enrollment and/or attendance in school to the ability to receive and maintain a driver's license. We focus on how traffic fatalities, teen employment, and teen births are affected by these policies. Using difference-in-differences estimation, exploiting the variation in timing of the enactment of No Pass, No Drive policies, we find that these policies cause a reduction in teen-involved fatal traffic accidents by 3 percent, with larger effects for white teens (15 percent). Additionally, these policies cause a small increase in teen births, with large effects on black teen births (6 percent) and hispanic teen births (21 percent). These policies also cause a shift in teen employment - overall teen employment rates are not affected, but white teen employment decreases as a result of a 1 percentage point increase in white school enrollment. This causes a 5 percentage point increase in black teen employment due to new jobs opened up by white teens attending school instead of working. Our results demonstrate that increasing school retention and decreasing teen drivers' licenses reduces fatal traffic accidents and increases teen births, and our results provide suggestive evidence of existing racial frictions in youth labor markets, which can be reduced by lowering dropout rates.

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"The Effect of Quality of Post-secondary Education on Marriage Stability"

In this study, I investigate how quality of post-secondary education affects marriage stability. I use an instrumental variable strategy and utilize the NLSY79 data. The instrumental variable is post-secondary education quality of the county of residency at age of 17. By study the education background and marriage history of people who were aged between 14-21 in 1979 and whose highest degree is baccalaureate, I find that married people who attended better college are 20% less likely to be divorced before age 40, and 14% less likely to get divorced before 10th anniversary. In addition, duration of the first marriage of people that have better quality of post-secondary education is about 3.3 years longer than those with lower quality. Also, better college education results in less remarriages among those who have married before 40-year-old. In general, better quality of college education is associated with more stable marriage, lower probability of divorce and longer duration of marriage.

References

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