Xiaohong Wang

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Personal Website

EDUCATION

Ph.D.   Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh, 2018 - Present

M.S.   Developmental and Educational Psychology, Shaanxi Normal University, China, 2014 - 2017

B.S.   Applied Psychology, Tianjin Normal University, China, 2010 - 2014

B.S.   Journalism and Communication, Tianjin Normal University, China, 2010 – 2014

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Substantive: Racial Justice, Behavioral Science

Methodological: Causal Inference, Experimental Economics

PUBLICATIONS

Working Papers

"The Effect of Black Lives Matter Protests on Racial Disparities in Nonfatal Police-Civilian Interactions" (Job market paper; under review)

"Racial Differences in Local Politician Persistence" (under review)

"The Role of Effort Cost Perception in Outcome Bias" (with Robizon Khubulashvili and Sera Linardi; under review)

"Precarious Wage and Customer Abusive Behaviors in the Restaurant Industry" (**Xiaohong Wang**, Zach Brewster, Sara Goodkind, Carrie Leana, Sera Linardi, Lu-in Wang)

Early Publications

"Peer Relations and Dropout Behavior: Evidence from Junior High School Students in Northwest Rural China." Shen Gao, Meredith Yang, **Xiaohong Wang**, Wenbin Min, and Scott Rozelle, *International Journal of Educational Development* 65, 134-143, 2019.

"The Relationship between Infant Peer Interactions and Cognitive Development: Evidence from Rural China." Ai Yue, **Xiaohong Wang**, Sha Yang, Yaojiang Shi, Renfu Luo, Qi Zhang, Kaleigh Kenny, Scott Rozelle, *Chinese Journal of Sociology* 3 (2), 193-207, 2017.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, University of Pittsburgh

> Behavioral Economics in the Wild, Summer 2022

Teaching Assistant/Recitation Instructor, University of Pittsburgh

> Intermediate Quantitative Methods, with Daniel Jones, Spring 2022

> Introduction to Quantitative Methods, with Chris Belasco, Fall 2021

Guest Lecturer, University of Pittsburgh

> R Data Visualization, with Sera Linardi, Spring 2021

Teaching Assistant, University of Pittsburgh

> Behavioral Economics and Game Theory, with Sera Linardi, Spring 2020

RESEARCH RELATED POSITIONS

Principal Investigator, Outcome Bias and Sharing, University of Pittsburgh, 2020 – present

> With Robizon Khubulashvili and Sera Linardi

Research Assistant, Precarious Work Project, Social Science Research Initiative, 2020 – present

> With Zach Brewster, Sara Goodkind, Carrie Leana, Sera Linardi, and Lu-in Wang

Research Assistant, Randomized Controlled Trial on Use of Services among Ex-inmates, University of Pittsburgh Central Research and Development, 2018 – present

> With Marco Castillo, Sera Linardi, and Ragan Petrie

Study Coordinator, Relational Contracting Project, Caltech and University of Pittsburgh, 2019

> With Colin Camerer and Sera Linardi

Research Assistant, Rural Education Action Program, Stanford, 2014 – 2018

> With Scott Rozelle and Yaojiang Shi

HONORS AND GRANTS

Norms and Behavioral Change Early Career Researcher, UPenn NoBeC, 2022

Dissertation Grant, University of Pittsburgh, 2022

Teaching Fellow, University of Pittsburgh, 2021

Professional Development Fund, University of Pittsburgh, 2021

Graduate Student Assistantship, University of Pittsburgh, 2018 - 2021

Full Scholarship for Exchange Students, China Scholarship Council, 2016

SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2022 March: APPAM 2021 Fall Conference, Austin, Texas

2022 February: Experimental/Behavioral Brown Bag, Econ., University of Pittsburgh

2021 October: Internal Research Talk Series, GSPIA, University of Pittsburgh

2021 June: The Chinese Economist Society Annual Conference (Session Chair), Virtual

2021 June: Koninklijke Vereniging voor de Staatshuishoudkunde (KVS) New Paper Sessions, Virtual

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Referee: Journal of Economic Psychology

Service: Race and Social Justice Faculty Search Committee, GSPIA, University of Pittsburgh

SKILLS

Programming: Stata, R, Python, oTree, MTurk, Qualtrics, LaTeX

Languages: English (Fluent), Chinese (Native)

WORKING PAPER ABSTRACTS

The Effect of Black Lives Matter Protests on Racial Disparities in Nonfatal Police-Civilian Interactions

Protests against police brutality and systemic racism have been prevalent in the United States, and most recently hastened by the killing of George Floyd. This paper evaluates how George Floyd protests affect racial disparities in nonfatal police-civilian interactions using police practice data across 17 cities in 12 states and a combination method of regression discontinuity (RD) and difference-in-differences (DiD). The results show that the protests have not impacted the proportion of African Americans in stops, but have reduced the proportion of African Americans in arrests from 30% to 26%. When dividing all interactions into cases in daylight and in darkness, the decreased effect of the protests only holds during the daytime, instead of nighttime when public supervision is absent. It suggests that Black Lives Matter protests did affect nonfatal police-civilian interactions when it comes to race. However, the day-night differences imply that the decrease in police interactions with African Americans may not be due to the change in police attitudes/beliefs. It is possible that it is a temporary change yielding to the strong public attention at that time.

Racial Differences in Local Politician Persistence

This paper explores the racial differences in politicians' persistence in local government. Empirical data from California city council elections and a close election regression discontinuity design (CERDD) suggest that losing an election causes 70% attrition in rerunning for office. However, nonwhite candidates are 59% more likely to run for an election again compared to white candidates after a loss. Conditional on rerunning, the possibility of winning the next election is the same for different racial groups. The tenacity of losing nonwhite candidates paid off by holding the same winning possibility in subsequent elections.

The Role of Effort Cost Perception in Outcome Bias

Outcome bias is pervasive and persistent across different environments. In our noisy gift-exchange game, where agents can perform a real effort task to improve principals' lottery win probability, we replicate outcome bias in effort rewarding when effort is only numerically observable. To investigate the role of principals' beliefs on effort cost, we employed a visual treatment in which principals watch a 30-second video of the agents performing the task. We show that visually observing agents' work corrects asymmetry in rewarding effort. The post-experiment survey suggests that the mechanism through which visually observing effort reduces the outcome bias in reciprocating effort is informing principals about the cost of effort.

August 2022