

Shishu Zhang

Zulauf 515, Economics Department, Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115, U.S.A. 815-501-5019

zhangshishu123456@hotmail.com
<http://www.students.niu.edu/~z127642>

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Economics, expected May 2010

Northern Illinois University (NIU), DeKalb, IL

- Current GPA: 3.92/4.00
- Passed Preliminary Exam for Macroeconomics with distinction
- Dissertation: “Do Our Children Become Healthier and Wiser? The Effect of Medicaid Coverage on School Absenteeism”
Committee: Virginia Wilcox-Gök (chair), Evan Anderson, Susan Porter-Hudak, Jeremy Groves

Master of Science in Probability and Statistics, expected May 2010

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

Master of Arts in Economics, August 2007

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

Master of Arts in Foreign Language and Applied Linguistics in English, August 2006

Southwestern University of Finance & Economics (SWUFE), Sichuan Province, China

Bachelor of Arts in English and Economics, June 2003

Southwestern University of Finance & Economics, Sichuan Province, China

Associate Degree in Finance, June 2003

Southwestern University of Finance & Economics, Sichuan Province, China

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Primary: Public Economics, Econometrics and Statistical Methods, Health Economics

Secondary: Financial Economics and Macroeconomics

RESEARCH

(1) Do Our Children Become Healthier and Wiser? A Study of the Effect of Medicaid Coverage on School

Absenteeism, October 2009

Abstract: Children currently make up nearly half of Medicaid enrollees. While the impact of Medicaid coverage on the use of medical care has been extensively examined, few studies have addressed the impact of Medicaid on children’s health and schooling. This paper reports estimates of the effect of Medicaid enrollment on children’s school absenteeism. Schooling is a particularly important outcome because it influences children’s productivity and earnings as adults. I use panel data from five years of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey to estimate the impact of Medicaid enrollment on the number of school absences in reduced form and structural equation models. The structural model includes equations for children’s medical care use, health status, and school absences. Econometric methods employed include instrumental variable techniques, fixed effects estimation, and coarsened exact matching. I find that children with Medicaid coverage have significantly more doctor visits, doctor visits are significantly associated with better health, and children in better health miss significantly fewer days of school. I conclude that Medicaid enrollment significantly reduces school absences.

- (2) **A Dynamic Model Approach to Students' Daily Absenteeism**, with Evan Anderson, March, 2009
- (3) **The Effect of Children's Medicaid Enrollment on School Performance — A Propensity Score Matching Approach**, May 2008
- (4) **Health Conditions and Portfolio Choices of Elders in the United States**, January 2008
- (5) **The Study of the Effect of Medicaid Coverage on Medical Service Usage**, December 2007
- (6) **Do Our Children Become Healthier? — A Study of the Effect of Medicaid Expansion on Elementary School Absenteeism**, June 2006

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant for Graduate Level Courses, August 2007-present

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

Classes: Advanced Macroeconomics, Advanced Financial Economics, Public Finance Seminar

- Assist over 30 graduate students with research topics and foundation development
- Organize classroom discussion and present research ideas
- Use multimedia teaching devices to promote classroom engagement and promote learning outcomes

Instructor of Principles of Microeconomics, August 2008-May 2009

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

- Answered students' questions and encouraged critical thinking among students
- Improved students' academic performance by increasing students' interests in the subject
- Designed microeconomics course, organized classroom activities, and taught over 120 students

Instructor of Principles of Macroeconomics, May 2007-August 2007

McHenry County College, Crystal Lake, IL

- Designed macroeconomics course and organized classroom activities for over 60 students
- Encouraged students to work hard and build their confidence by promoting group work
- Improved students' problem-solving ability and answered technical questions in an understandable way

Teaching Assistant for Undergraduate Level Courses, August 2005-May 2007

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

Classes: Principles of Macroeconomics, Principles of Microeconomics

Intermediate Macroeconomics, Intermediate Microeconomics

- Assisted over 50 students with concept development, and problem solving to successfully learn materials
- Helped students resolve their questions, concerns, and complaints
- Ensured ethics and exam credibility by proctoring exams

Part-Time Teacher, September 2004-June 2005

Chengdu College of Information Technology, China,

- Taught over 120 students to speak, read, and write English at the college level
- Helped students to pass the National English Exams and win prizes for English-speaking contests

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**Member of the Graduate Colloquium Committee, Fall 2009**

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

- Nominated by the department to be a member of the Graduate Colloquium Committee to discuss research proposals, identify, and select potential topics and speakers
- Gain valuable leadership and organizational experience, and forge contacts with important figures in various areas of study

Researcher, Fall 2009

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

- Studied and presented economic topics concerning the United States' welfare reform on children's health outcomes
- Researched for my thesis: "A Study of the Effect of Medicaid Coverage on School Absenteeism"

Research Assistant, August 2007-August 2008

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

- Gathered data and analyzed the results
- Edited students' articles and provided comments
- Edited and coauthored journal articles with professors

CONFERENCES

Missouri Valley Economics Association Annual Conference, Kansas City, 2009

- Paper presented: "Do Our Children Become Healthier and Wiser? A Study of the Effect of Medicaid Coverage on School Absenteeism"

Illinois Economics Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, 2009

- Paper presented: "The Effect of Children's Medicaid Enrollment on School Performance —A Propensity Score Matching Approach"
- Won second prize in Graduate Student Paper Competition

Midwest Economics Association Annual Conference, Cleveland, 2008

- Paper presented: "The Effect of Children's Medicaid Enrollment on School Performance —A Propensity Score Matching Approach"

Midwest Economics Association Annual Conference, Chicago, 2007

- Paper presented: "Do Our Children Become Healthier? — A Study of the Effect of Medicaid Expansion on Elementary School Absenteeism"

Illinois Economics Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, 2007

- Paper presented: "Do Our Children Become Healthier? — A Study of the Effect of Medicaid Expansion on Elementary School Absenteeism"
- Won the Award for Best Graduate Student Paper in Health Economics

Third Symposium on Economic Science, 2002
 Southwestern University of Finance & Economics, Sichuan Province, China

- Interpreted for five important meetings of the symposium

National Mathematical Modeling Contest, 2000
 Southwestern University of Finance & Economics, Sichuan Province, China

- The only student chosen from 60 applicants to participate
- In charge of statistical analysis and computer programming section

PUBLICATIONS

- “The Problem in China’s Real Estate Development and the Potential Risks Involved in Real Estate Financing.” *Journal of Shanxi University of Finance and Economics*, April 2004, Vol. 26, No. 1
- “Deflation and Inflation.” *Journal of Finance of China*, December 2004, Vol.105

SKILLS

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|--|-----------------|------------------|----------------|--------|
| Languages | Chinese(native) | English (fluent) | French (basic) | |
| Mathematical and Statistical Software | STATA | SAS | MATLAB | GAUSS |
| Office Software | Excel | Word | PowerPoint | Access |

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Second Prize in Graduate Student Paper Competition, Illinois Economics Association, 2009
Presented and won the second prize among over 40 chosen papers
- Student Summer Fellowship, American Institute of Economic Research, July 8-August 4, 2008
Chosen from more than 100 applicants
- Fellowship Award, American Institute of Economics Research, 2008
Based on outstanding performance during the summer fellowship program
- Outstanding Graduate Scholar Economics Department, NIU, 2007-2008
Based on outstanding academic performance
- Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Graduate School of NIU, 2007-2008
Based on outstanding academic performance
- Award for Best Graduate Student Paper in Health Economics, Illinois Economics Association, 2007
Awarded for the paper “Do Our Children Become Healthier? — A Study of the Effect of Medicaid Expansion on Elementary School Absenteeism.”
- Honor Student Award for All-around Achievement of Graduate School, SWUFE, 2003-2004
Based on extracurricular activities and academic achievements
- Graduate School Excellent Student Scholarship, SWUFE, 2003-2004
Based on extracurricular activities and academic achievements
- China Mobile: Excellent Student Scholarship, SWUFE, 2002-2003
The only student in the department to be offered the award
- Honor Award: National Excellent University Student, SWUFE, 2000-2001
The only student in the department to be offered the award

REFERENCES

Virginia Wilcox-Gök (Chair), Department of Economics, Northern Illinois University
Telephone: 815-753-6957 E-mail: vlw@niu.edu

Evan Anderson, Department of Economics, Northern Illinois University
Telephone: 815-753-5748 E-mail: ewanderson@niu.edu

Susan Porter-Hudak, Department of Economics, Northern Illinois University
Telephone: 815-753-6983 E-mail: sphudak@niu.edu

Sudhir Gupta, Department of Statistics, Northern Illinois University
Telephone: 815-753-6846 E-mail: sudhir@math.niu.edu

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