Cheng Qian

Department of Economics
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211

http://chengqian10.weebly.com
chengqian@mail.missouri.edu
(443) 814-2465

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Missouri	Expected May 2021
M.S. in Finance, Shandong University, China	2016
B.A. in Economics, Zhejiang University, China	2012

Programming Languages

R (advanced), Stata (advanced), SAS (proficient), Python (proficient), SQL (basic)

Honors and Grants

Norman Bowers Scholarship, University of Missouri   2020
awarded for outstanding dissertation research

Summer Research Grant, University of Missouri   2018-2019
grant for summer research projects

Harry Gunnison Brown Memorial Fellowship, University of Missouri   2017
awarded to top performing PhD student during first-year coursework

National Scholarship, Ministry of Education of China   2014
awarded to excellent graduate student

Outstanding Graduate Student Scholarship, Shandong University   2014
awarded to excellent graduate student

Professional Activities

Conference and Seminar

SEA 2020 Annual Research Conference	Nov 2020
APPAM 2020 Fall Research Conference	Nov 2020
Shandong University of Finance and Economics	May 2015

Referee Service

Economics of Education Review

Research Assistant Experience

Supervisor: Dr. Cory Koedel, University of Missouri   Jan 2020 to Present

Project: "Measuring Test Score Growth with the Pandemic-Induced Gap Year in Testing"

- Role: Lead data analyst
- Built a five-year data panel of all students in grades 3-8 in Missouri to measure student test-score growth on statewide assessments.
- Evaluated school/district growth measures across multiple models with artificially censored gap year to simulate the impact of the pandemic-induced gap year in testing in spring 2020.

Project: "Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Project"

- Role: Lead data analyst
- Constructed six-year data panel of students in Missouri K-12 schools with information on test scores, attendance, and characteristics. Merged in multiple measures of student poverty from various sources.
- Implemented a data quasi-experiment to examine how the CEP affects the ability of free and reduced-price meal data to identify disadvantaged students.

Supervisor: Drs. Mark Ehlert and Eric Parsons, University of Missouri   Aug 2017 to Jun 2019

Project: "Early Indicators: Using MOSIS Longitudinal Student Data to Forecast High School Graduation and College Attendance"

- Role: Lead data analyst
- Constructed a rich dataset including student demographics, test scores, mobility, and discipline information for a large sample of Missouri students.
- Use students' 4th grade information to predict their high school graduation and college attendance outcomes.

Project: "Teach for America (TFA) in Kansas City: Patterns of Recruitment, Retention and Performance"

- Role: Lead data analyst
- Constructed longitudinal data panel and analytic models to evaluate the performance of TFA and non-TFA new teachers in the Kansas City Missouri School District (KCMSD) and the city's charter schools between 2008 and 2016.

Project: "Annual Composition of the Teacher Work Force and Relationships with School Performance on the Missouri Assessment Program"

- Role: Lead data analyst
- Constructed a 16-year data panel covering all Missouri public school educators to analyze teacher labor flows.

Supervisor: Dr. Jinyan Hu, Shandong University   Aug 2013 to Jun 2016

Project: "Informal Finance Risk: Transformation, Regional Variations and Research of Risk Aversion Measures"

- Role: data analyst
- Participated in survey design, data collection, and data cleaning process
- Built a large data set describing the financial status of Chinese households.

Other Work Experience

Teaching Assistant

Principles of Microeconomics (Head TA), University of Missouri	Aug 2019 to Dec 2019
Principles of Microeconomics, University of Missouri	Aug 2016 to May 2017

Internship

Zhongtai Securities Co., Ltd.	Jun 2015 to Aug 2015
Bank of China	Mar 2013 to June 2013

Publications

"Non-Resident Postsecondary Enrollment Growth and the Outcomes of In-State Students"(with Diyi Li and Cory Koedel), *Contemporary Economic Policy*, forthcoming.

"The Effect of RMB Exchange Rate Change on Income Distribution"(with Ying Li and Haibing Wang), *Economic Science*, Vol 3, 2014, pp 13-22. (in Chinese)

Research Papers

"The Potential for Community College Students to Expand and Diversify four-year Degree Production in STEM Fields" (with Cory Koedel), **job market paper**

Abstract: We use rich administrative microdata from Missouri to examine the potential to expand and diversify the production of STEM degrees at universities by tapping into the population of community college students. We find that the scope for expansion is modest, even at an upper bound, because most community college students have academic qualifications that make them unlikely to succeed in a STEM field at a university. We also find there is almost no scope for community college students to improve the racial/ethnic diversity of four-year STEM degree recipients. We conclude that it will be challenging to expand and diversify STEM degree production at universities with interventions targeted toward community college students.

"The Effect of Local Labor Market Conditions on Postsecondary Enrollment and Degree Completion", working paper

Abstract: I use a recent data panel spanning the years 2001-2017 to study the effect of local-area unemployment on postsecondary enrollment and degree completion. My analysis extends the literature in several ways, most notably by (a) incorporating data well into the recent economic recovery from the Great Recession, (b) using improved (more accurate) measures of postsecondary enrollment, and (c) accounting for the attenuating effect of measurement error in calculated unemployment rates. Like in previous research, I find that postsecondary enrollment is countercyclical. I further show that the countercyclical enrollment pattern is concentrated among students in two-year and sub-two-year degree programs. There is suggestive evidence that men are more elastic than women in their enrollment response to unemployment, and unemployment rates have long term effect on degree completion, but my estimates are too imprecise to draw strong inference.

"College Grades and Major Choice", working in progress

References

Cory Koedel (Dissertation advisor)
University of Missouri
koedelc@missouri.edu

David Kaplan (Dissertation committee))
University of Missouri
kaplandm@missouri.edu

Eric Parsons (Research supervisor)
University of Missouri
parsonses@missouri.edu