Rachel Yang Zhou

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EDUCATION

2022   Columbia University
        Ph.D. in Economics and Education

2021   Columbia University
        M.Phil. in Economics and Education

2016   Duke University
        M.A. in Economics

2014   The University of Hong Kong
        Bachelor of Economics and Finance

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Economics of Education, Labor Economics, Applied Econometrics, Education Policy

WORK IN PROGRESS

Raising the Bar for High School Math: Impacts on High School Graduation and College Success

Heterogeneities in Labor Market Returns to Master's Degree: Evidence from Ohio (with Judith Scott-Clayton and Veronica Minaya)

Six years later: Examining the Academic and Employment Outcomes of the Original and Reinstated Summer Pell (with Vivian Liu and Jordan Matsudaira)

A Large-Scale RCT of a K-12 Early Warning System (with Peter Bergman, Riddhima Mishra, and Susha Roy)

Understanding Experiential Learning Through Work-Based Courses at College: Evidence from Applying a Text Mining Technique with Transcript Data

PUBLICATIONS

2021. "Lifting Barriers to Education During and After COVID-19: Improving Education Outcomes for Migrant and Refugee Children in Latin America and the Caribbean" (with Kim Caarls, Victor Cebotari, Despina Karamperidou, Maria Carolina Alban Conto, and Juliana Zapata). United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Office of Research-Innocenti Research Report.

2020. "How Various Types of Disabilities Impact Children's School Attendance and Completion- Lessons Learned from Censuses in Eight Developing Countries" (with Yifeng Luo, Suguru Mizunoya, and Diogo Amaro). International Journal of Educational Development 77, 102222.

2017. "Does the Federal Work-Study Program Really Work-and for Whom?" (with Judith Scott-Clayton). Center for Analysis of Postsecondary Education and Employment (CAPSEE) Research Brief.

RESEARCH EMPLOYMENT

2021 – Present   Learning Collider Research Lab
                  Researcher
                  - Collaborated on a research partnership with an education technology firm to evaluate the impact of schools' adoption of the early warning system via a randomized controlled trial

- Conducted literature review on the relationship between learning materials and children's perceptions on social groups
- Drafted IRB applications, data requests and survey scripts

2016 – 2022   Community College Research Center
Senior Research Assistant II
- Co-authored quantitative research papers and briefs on higher education policies and programs
- Analyzed large administrative data using causal inference models to examine the consequences of performance standards in need-based aid for community college entrants
- Supported the implementation of a randomized lottery experiment to investigate the effects of the Federal Work-Study program at a large public postsecondary system
- Cleaned and evaluated administrative data from multiple community college systems, and developed descriptive and econometric analyses to understand the implications of current developmental English reforms
- Designed a student survey with Qualtrics and analyzed the survey data to examine the impacts of Learn-on-Demand online IT courses at community colleges
- Drafted funding applications, IRB applications, and data sharing agreements
- Communicated research agenda with state administrative systems, organized meeting notes and supervised junior research assistants

2015 – 2016   Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University
Research Assistant for Prof. Charles Clotfelter & Prof. Helen Ladd
- Analyzed data with quasi-experimental methods, developed written analyses and graphic representations of findings for research projects on financial aid policies and high school curriculum policies
- Collected data from North Carolina Education Research Data Center, cleaned and evaluated the data for statistical analysis
- Conducted policy review on minimum high school math course requirements for college admission in North Carolina and other states

2012 – 2013   School of Economics and Finance, The University of Hong Kong
Research Assistant
- Adapted codes in R & MATLAB to analyze data, monitor calculations and produce graphs for research projects
- Collaborated with research teams to determine project needs and methodologies

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2019   School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University
Open Economy Macroeconomics: Assisted teaching for an Executive Master of Public Administration course

2019   Barnard College
American Wellbeing: Held lab sessions to teach R programming language, and assisted teaching for an advanced undergraduate Economics course

2016   Department of Economics, Duke University
Applied Econometrics in Microeconomics: Held STATA coding sessions, and assisted teaching for a graduate level Economics course

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2016 – 2019   Doctoral Fellowship, Teachers College, Columbia University
2014 – 2016   M.A. Merit Scholar Award, Duke University
2014 – 2016   Duke Economics Master's Scholar Award, Duke University
2011 – 2014   HKU Foundation Scholarships for Outstanding Mainland Students

OTHER

Computer Skills: STATA, R, Python, MATLAB
Language: English, Chinese