

ZHICHAO WEI

Zhichao_Wei@brown.edu

BROWN UNIVERSITY

Placement Director: Pedro Dal Bo

Pedro_Dal_Bo@brown.edu (401) 863-2953

Student Affairs Manager: Angelica Vargas

Angelica_Vargas@brown.edu(401) 863-2465

Office Contact Information

Box B, Brown University
Providence, R.I., 02912

Home Contact Information

211 Waterman Street, Apt 24
Providence, R.I., 02906
(1)401-556-3088 (Cell)

Degrees:

Ph.D.	Economics	Brown University	(expected)	May 2012
M.A.	Economics	Brown University		May 2007
M.A.	Economics	Peking (Beijing) University, China		July 2006
B.S.	Applied Math	Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China		July 2002
B.A.	Finance	Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China		July 2002

Committee:

Professor Vernon Henderson	Professor Louis Putterman	Professor Nathaniel Baum-Snow
Brown University	Brown University	Brown University
Phone: (401) 863-2886	Phone: (401) 863-3837	Phone: (401) 863-2697
Vernon_Henderson@brown.edu	Louis_Putterman@brown.edu	Nathaniel_Baum-Snow@brown.edu

Teaching and Research Fields:

Development Economics, Urban Economics, Public Economics, Chinese Economy

Teaching Experience:

Options, Futures and Other Derivatives	Spring, 2011
Current Global Macroeconomic Challenges	Fall, 2010
Intermediate Macroeconomics	Fall, 2007, 2008; Spring, 2010
Fixed Income Securities	Fall, 2009
Investment I	Spring, 2009

Research Experience:

2008	Research Assistant to Professor Vernon Henderson
2005-2008	Research Assistant to Professor Nancy Qian
2004	Research Assistant to Professor Justin Yifu Lin and Feng Lu
2003-2006	Member, Macro Group, CCER, Peking University

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

Summer, 2010	Dissertation Research Fellowship, Brown University
2009-2010	Research Fellowship, Peking University-Lincoln Institute
2006-2007	Graduate School Fellowship, Brown University
2005	Guanghua Scholarship, Peking University
1998-2000	People's Scholarship, Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Publication:

"Property Tax and Local Public Finance in China" (with Gang Yi), *Economics Research Journal* (in Chinese), Issue 3, Feb 2006

Work Experience:

Summer, 2009	Intern	IBD, BOC International (China) Limited, Beijing
Summer, 2005	Surveyor	World Bank, Beijing
Nov-Dec, 2004	Intern	Monitor Group, Beijing
Jul-Sept, 2002	Associate	Research Department, Sun-Fund Securities, Shanghai

Research Papers:

"Blessing or Curse: A Study of China's Place-based Pro-agriculture Poverty Alleviation Program" (Job Market Paper)

Abstract:

This paper evaluates the effects of China's second-wave, place-based poverty-alleviation program from 1994 to 2000. The results using regression-discontinuity design show that the supported sector—especially grain production and the number of livestock—grew faster in the counties receiving aid compared to those counties not receiving aid. However, this aid also drove people out of other production—especially non-farm activities—that played an increasingly important role in rural earnings. Thus, the supported counties had a greater increase in agricultural income, but that increase may have been almost mediated by a smaller increase in other income sources, causing the overall effect on income to be negligible. The paper suggests that the traditional place-based policy in China caused significant distortions and that a more efficient way of helping the lagging regions is needed.

"Rates of Return to University Education: The Regression Discontinuity Design" (With Elliott Fan, Xin Meng, Guochang Zhao), IZA working paper, 2010

Abstract:

Estimating the rate of return to a university degree has always been difficult due to the problem of omitted variable biases. Benefiting from a special feature of the University Admission system in China, which has clear cutoffs for university entry, combined with a unique data set with information on individual National College Entrance Examination (NCEE) scores, we estimate the Local Average Treatment Effects (LATE) of university education based on a Regression Discontinuity design. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study to use RD design to estimate the causal effect of a university education on earnings. Our results show that the rates of return to four-year university education, relative to three-year college education, are 40 and 60 percent for the compliers in the male and female samples, respectively—much larger than the simple OLS estimations revealed in previous literature. Since, in our sample, a large proportion of individuals are compliers (45 percent for males and 48 percent for females), the LATEs estimated in this paper have a relatively general implication. In addition, we find that the LATEs are likely to be larger than the ATEs, suggesting that the inference drawn from the average treatment effects might understate the true effects of the university expansion program introduced in China in 1999.

"Do Amenities Matter for Migrants? Evidence from China ", 2011

Data Analysis Experiences:

1982, 1990, 2000, 2005 China Population Census, National Fixed Point Survey and Agricultural Census by the Ministry of Agriculture in China, China Health and Nutrition Survey (CHNS), China GIS, China's Urban Residents Education and Employment Survey (UREES), China's Urban Household Income and Expenditure Survey (UHIES),

Languages:

English (Fluent); Mandarin and Cantonese (Native)

Computer Skills:

MS Office, Stata, SPSS, Eviews, ArcGIS