MENG SONG

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EMPLOYMENT

Quantitative Graduate Assistant, UConn Research Center ARMS 2025 –

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Connecticut 2022 –

M.S. in Data Science, University of Connecticut 2024 –

M.A. in Economics, University of Southern California 2019

B.A. in Management, Graduated with Highest Distinction, Shandong University 2017

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary: Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Applied Microeconometrics

Secondary: Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing

WORKING PAPERS

"**The Future of Work: Remote Opportunities and Female Labor Force Participation**"
Draft available at mengsong.net/publications

This paper examines the long-term effects of the accelerated adoption of work-from-home opportunities brought about by the pandemic on female labor force participation. It aims to explore whether the rise in remote work opportunities can explain the observed resilience and recent growth in female labor force participation and to investigate whether women were more adversely impacted or ultimately benefited more from work-from-home arrangements. Using a difference-in-differences and event study design, this paper exploits variation at the local labor market area (LMA) level pre- and post- pandemic, comparing individuals in LMAs with higher work-from-home potential to those in areas with lower work-from-home opportunities. My findings reveal that WFH opportunities have a significant and positive impact on female labor force participation, particularly for mothers and mothers with young children. At the LMA level, a one-standard-deviation increase in WFH opportunities is associated with a 0.32 percentage point increase in the probability of a female individual participating in the labor force. The effects are more pronounced for mothers (0.41 percentage point increase) and are largest for mothers with children under 5 (0.86 percentage point increase). Additionally, younger women achieve the greatest benefits from WFH, with effects decline with age; meanwhile, highly educated mothers of young children benefit the most, whereas women with lower educational attainment face structural barriers limiting their ability to fully leverage remote work opportunities.

"**Four-day School Week and Student Achievements: Evidence from Colorado**"
with Ruinan Zhao. Manuscript in Preparation

The four-day school week policy has gained increased attention among school districts in recent years. While existing literature has examined its effects on primary school students' test scores, health, and risky behaviors in the short run, the impacts on high school students and teachers remain unclear. Utilizing administrative data of students and teachers, we leverage the quasi-randomness of the four-day school week implementation and employ a difference-in-difference approach to explore the causal impacts of the four-day school week on high school students' academic achievements. Our findings reveal that the adoption of the 4-day school week increases dropout rates, reduce freshman college enrollment, but has no statistically significant impact on on-time graduation rates. Additionally, we present suggestive evidence that the duration of exposure to the four-day school week, along with the implementation strategy, play an important role in influencing students' outcomes.

"**The Global Impacts of Climate Change on Risk Preferences**"
with Wesley Howden, Remy Levin. Draft available at mengsong.net/publications

We study the direct impacts that long-run experiences of climate change have on individual risk preferences. Using panel surveys from Indonesia and Mexico (total N = 25,000), we link within-person changes in elicited risk preferences to state-level, lifetime experiences of climate change. In line with the predictions of a Bayesian model of learning over background climate risk, we find that in both settings increases in the experienced means of temperature and precipitation cause significant decreases in measured risk aversion, while increases in the experienced variance of temperature in Indonesia and the variance of precipitation in Mexico lead to significant increases in measured risk aversion. We replicate this analysis globally using a survey with a representative sample from 75 countries (N = 75,000) containing an elicited measure of risk preference which we link to country-level, lifetime climate experiences. We find significant results for both the means and variances of both climate variables that are consistent with our panel analyses. Across all settings, experiences of climate variance have first-order effects, with coefficient magnitudes of the standard deviation of climate 0.6-2.6 times that of the climate mean. We develop a novel method for estimating the welfare effects of observed risk preference changes using panel data, and find that the climate-induced changes in risk preferences we observe increased welfare in both Indonesia and Mexico by approximately 1%.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS & HONORS

CLAS Fellowship in Economics, $750, *University of Connecticut*	2025
Eleanor Bloom Summer Fellowship, $3000, *University of Connecticut*	2025
Best Third Year Paper Award, $1500, *University of Connecticut*	2025
Graduate School Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Economics, $2600, *University of Connecticut*	2024
Eleanor Bloom Summer Fellowship, *University of Connecticut*	2024
Economics Department Graduate Assistantship, *University of Connecticut*	2022 – Present
Incoming Graduate Student Economics Fellowship, $4000, *University of Connecticut*	2022-2023
Timothy A. & Beverly C. Holt Economics Fellowship, $1100, *University of Connecticut*	2023
Dean's Distinguished Fellowship, *University of California Riverside*	2020 – 2022
Outstanding Undergraduate Student in provincial level, *Shandong Province*	2017
First-class Scholarship, *Shandong University*	2015 & 2016
Excellent Academic Research Assistant, *Shandong University*	2016

Outstanding Student, *Shandong University* 2014 & 2015 & 2016

First Prize in Student Research Contest, *Shandong University* 2014 & 2015 & 2016

Excellent Student Leader, *Shandong University* 2015

Best Merit Student, *Shandong University* 2015

First Prize in "Challenge Cup" Academic Olympic Event, **Team leader**, *Shandong Province* 2015

Second-class Scholarship, *Shandong University* 2014

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Research Assistant for Dr.Stephen Ross, *University of Connecticut* Summer 2023 –

Research Assistant for Dr.Jeffrey Nugent, *University of Southern California* 2018 – 2019

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant

Econ 2441: Labor Economics, *University of Connecticut* Spring 2024

Econ 2201: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory, *University of Connecticut* Spring 2024

Econ 3209: Behavioral Economics, *University of Connecticut* Fall 2023

Econ 2201: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory, *University of Connecticut* Fall 2023

Econ 1202: Principles of Macroeconomics, *University of Connecticut* Spring 2023

Econ 1201: Principles of Microeconomics, *University of Connecticut* Fall 2022

Econ 584: Econometric and Consulting (graduate),*University of Southern California* 2018 – 2019

Econ 474: Economic Consulting and Applied Managerial Economics, *USC* 2018 – 2019

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Vice President, Economics Graduate Student Association, *USC* 2018 – 2019

Chair, Science and Academic Department of Students' Union, *Shandong University* 2015 – 2016

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Python, Stata, R, SQL, Shell Script, MATLAB, HTML/CSS

Tools AWS, Tableau, Git, MongoDB, Xcode, Docker, LaTeX

Languages English, Mandarin

REFERENCES

Stephen L Ross, PhD (Major Advisor)

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Storrs, CT 06269

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