

MENG SONG

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EDUCATION

<i>Ph.D. in Economics</i> , University of Connecticut	2022 – Present
<i>M.S. in Data Science</i> , University of Connecticut	2024 – Present
<i>M.A. in Economics</i> , University of Southern California	May 2019
<i>B.A. in Management with Highest Distinction</i> , Shandong University	June 2017

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary: Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Applied Microeconometrics

Secondary: Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing

WORKING PAPERS

“Four-day School Week, Student Achievements, and Teacher Labor Market Outcomes: Evidence from Colorado” with [Ozkan Eren](#), [Ruihan Zhao](#) (*draft coming soon*)

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 and teacher labor market outcomes. 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. We further illustrate the policy impacts on teacher retention, recruitment, and productivity. 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 both student and teacher outcomes.

“The Effect of Job Flexibility on Female Labor Force Participation”

This paper posits that job flexibility may be a significant factor influencing women’s decisions to participate in the labor force. The aim is to explore the relationship between job flexibility and FLFP, to understand how job flexibility can be leveraged to not only attract more women into the workforce but also to ensure their continued participation and advancement. I plan to create a more robust measure of job flexibility that accounts for both temporal and spatial flexibility, potentially using a combination of annual CPS data and O*NET’s detailed job characteristics. This new measure will be incorporated into a regression model using principal component analysis (PCA) and a shift-share instrument to estimate the impact of job flexibility on female labor force participation.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS & HONORS

Graduate School Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Economics, \$2600, <i>University of Connecticut</i>	2024
Eleanor Bloom Summer Fellowship, <i>University of Connecticut</i>	2024
Economics Department Graduate Assistantship, <i>University of Connecticut</i>	2022 – Present
Incoming Graduate Student Economics Fellowship, \$4000, <i>University of Connecticut</i>	2022-2023
Timothy A. & Beverly C. Holt Economics Fellowship, \$1100, <i>University of Connecticut</i>	2023
Dean’s Distinguished Fellowship, <i>University of California Riverside</i>	2020 – 2022
Outstanding Undergraduate Student in provincial level, <i>Shandong Province</i>	2017
First-class Scholarship, <i>Shandong University</i>	2015 & 2016
Excellent Academic Research Assistant, <i>Shandong University</i>	2016
Outstanding Student, <i>Shandong University</i>	2014 & 2015 & 2016
First Prize in Student Research Contest, <i>Shandong University</i>	2014 & 2015 & 2016
Excellent Student Leader, <i>Shandong University</i>	2015
Best Merit Student, <i>Shandong University</i>	2015
First Prize in “Challenge Cup” Academic Olympic Event, Team leader , <i>Shandong Province</i>	2015
Second-class Scholarship, <i>Shandong University</i>	2014

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Research Assistant for Dr. Stephen Ross , <i>University of Connecticut</i>	Summer 2023 – Present
Research Assistant for Dr. Jeffrey Nugent , <i>University of Southern California</i>	2018 – 2019

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant

Econ 2441: Labor Economics, <i>University of Connecticut</i>	Spring 2024
Econ 2201: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory, <i>University of Connecticut</i>	Spring 2024
Econ 3209: Behavioral Economics, <i>University of Connecticut</i>	Fall 2023
Econ 2201: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory, <i>University of Connecticut</i>	Fall 2023
Econ 1202: Principles of Macroeconomics, <i>University of Connecticut</i>	Spring 2023
Econ 1201: Principles of Microeconomics, <i>University of Connecticut</i>	Fall 2022
Econ 584: Econometric and Consulting (graduate), <i>University of Southern California</i>	2018 – 2019
Econ 474: Economic Consulting and Applied Managerial Economics, <i>USC</i>	2018 – 2019

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Vice President, Economics Graduate Student Association, <i>USC</i>	2018 – 2019
Chair, Science and Academic Department of Students’ Union, <i>Shandong University</i>	2015 – 2016

TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

Programming	Python, R, Stata
Tools	L ^A T _E X, Git
Languages	English, Mandarin

REFERENCES

Stephen L Ross, PhD (advisor)

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