MENG SONG

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Connecticut	2022 – 2027 (expected)
M.S. in Data Science, University of Connecticut	2023 – 2026 (expected)
M.A. in Economics, University of Southern California	May 2019
B.A. in Management, Graduated with Highest Distinction, Shandong University	June 2017

WORKING PAPERS

The Future of Work: Remote Opportunities and Female Labor Force Participation

- Examined the long-term effects of work-from-home opportunities on female labor force participation, with a focus on gender gaps and labor market disparities.
- Proposed a new measure of work-from-home potential at the level of local labor market areas (LMAs).
- Implemented a Difference-in-Differences and event study design to analyze variation in work-from-home potential across LMAs pre- and post-COVID-19 pandemic.
- Findings revealed that females do not disproportionately benefit from work-from-home arrangements, with changes in female labor force participation limited to a 0.1% increase or decrease per standard deviation of work-from-home opportunities.

Four-day School Week, Student Achievements, and Teacher Labor Market Outcomes
with Ruinan Zhao

- Pioneered the first study to utilize comprehensive individual-level data of students and teachers spanning 22 years (2002–2023), covering elementary to high school education in Colorado, providing an unprecedented resource for analysis.
- Leveraged quasi-randomness of the four-day school week implementation and employed a Difference-in-Differences approach to explore causal impacts on high school students' academic achievements and teacher labor market outcomes.
- Findings reveal that the adoption of the four-day school week increases dropout rates and reduces freshman college enrollment, but has no statistically significant impact on on-time graduation rates.

The Global Impacts of Climate Change on Risk Preferences
with Wesley Howden, Remy Levin

- Studied the long-term impacts of climate change on individual risk preferences using panel surveys from Indonesia and Mexico (N = 25,000) and a global dataset spanning 75 countries (N = 75,000).
- Linked within-person changes in elicited risk preferences to lifetime experiences of climate change at the state and country levels, identifying significant effects of climate means and variances on risk aversion.
- Found that increases in climate variance have first-order effects, with impacts on risk preferences 0.6–2.6 times larger than those of climate means, consistent with predictions from a Bayesian learning model.

The Role of Informal Classroom Dialogue: A Study on Small Talk and Academic Attainment

- Developed a novel metric to measure small talk in classroom dialogue using NLP methods.
- Utilized individual-level data from the NCTE and MET databases and estimated the causal relationship between small talk intensity and student academic attainment using a two-way fixed effects model.
- Demonstrated that informal classroom interactions significantly influence learning outcomes, offering practical insights for improving educational engagement and pedagogy.

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Policy Report | *Colorado Department of Education*   **2025**

- Provided evidence-based insights on the impacts of the four-day school week on student academic outcomes and teacher labor market dynamics, aiding the Colorado Department of Education in evaluating educational policies.
- Highlighted how the duration of policy exposure and implementation strategies influence teacher retention, recruitment, productivity, and student outcomes.

Research Assistant | *Dr.Stephen Ross*   **Summer 2023 – Present**

- Journal Article: *Driving Change: Evaluating Connecticut's Collaborative Approach to Reducing Racial Dispar-ities in Policing (No. w32692). National Bureau of Economic Research.*
- Journal Article: *Industry Choice and within Industry Earnings Effects of Career and Technical Education.Under Review.*
- Performed data extraction, cleaning, geocoding, econometric modeling and regression analyses (stacked DID, event study, 2WFE, propensity score matching, principal component analysis) on large-scale datasets.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming: Python, Stata, R, SQL, Shell Script, MATLAB, HTML/CSS
Tools: AWS, Tableau, Git, MongoDB, Xcode, Docker, LaTeX