

Wei Si

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied Microeconometrics, Labor Economics, Development Economics, Policy Evaluation

EDUCATION

2012–present Ph.D. Candidate in ECONOMICS, **Stockholm University**, Sweden
Thesis Supervisors: Prof. Peter FREDRIKSSON and Prof. Andreas MADESTAM

2010–2012 M.Sc. in ECONOMICS, **Dalarna University**, Sweden
Main Supervisor: Prof. Tobias HELDT
Co-Supervisor: Jean-Philippe DESCHAMPS-LAPORTE

2006–2010 B.A. in FINANCE, **Tianjin University of Finance and Economics**, China

REFERENCES

Prof. Peter Fredriksson
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RESEARCH PAPERS

“Diverse Expertise, Peer Effects, and Research Productivity: Does diversity in idea space matter?” (JOB MARKET PAPER)

with Qi Wang

This paper empirically explores whether cognitive diversity between collaborators affects peer effects and productivity in creating knowledge. In order to measure the cognitive diversity between knowledge producers precisely, we introduce and calculate a novel index, namely the *cognitive distance* between two researchers, based on their publication distributions and citation relations across academic journals in which they have publications. Using individual-level panel data from the Thomson Reuters Web of Science (WoS) database of academic papers published from 1980 to 2013, we estimate the changes in productivity of the coauthors of 63 active life scientists who passed away unexpectedly and prematurely between 1995 and 2008 and examine whether the effect of this adverse shock to coauthors of a deceased scientist differs in terms of the *cognitive distance* between the coauthor and the deceased scientist. The results show that, following the death of an active and prominent life scientist, coauthors with close cognitive distance from the deceased scientist are more likely to experience a lasting decrease in productivity. While the cognitive distance between a coauthor and a deceased scientist attenuates the negative shock, the relationship appears to be non-linear for different measures of productivity. The findings suggest that both knowledge spillovers and skill complementarity play a role in collaborations. However, after losing a preeminent collaborator, it is the loss of an irreplaceable source of ideas that has a more adverse impact on a scientist's productivity than the potentially imperfect skill substitution that follows such a loss.

“Public Health Insurance and the Labor Market: Evidence from China's Urban Resident Basic Medical Insurance” (AWARD: BEST STUDENT PAPER – 38TH NORDIC HEALTH ECONOMISTS STUDY GROUP MEETING)

This paper provides empirical evidence on labor market effects of public health insurance in China. In 2007, China launched a national public health insurance program, the Urban Resident Basic Medical Insurance (URBMI), targeting residents in urban areas, who were not insured by the pre-existing employment-based health insurance. Using panel data from the China Health and Nutrition Survey 2004, 2006, 2009, and 2011, I employ an instrumental variable strategy that exploits the time variation of the URBMI implementation at the city level to overcome self-selection issues. I find that the URBMI does not have a significant average causal effect on labor market outcomes for the sample as a whole. However, URBMI has encouraged employment in the informal sector among women and the lower educated, while reduced informal employment among people with more schooling. After the program was implemented, the unemployed has an increased probability of becoming fixed-term contract workers, and the formal sector employees are more likely to become self-employed than before, indicating a reduction in job lock. The results suggest that the public health insurance program reduces healthcare expenditure risks associated with informal sector employment and thus encourages labor supply from marginal workers. It may decrease labor costs for small employers, hence to some extent increase labor demand from them.

“Higher Education and Women's Empowerment: Evidence from China's Higher Education Expansion”

This paper studies the impact of higher education expansion on women's empowerment. Higher education may potentially foster women's empowerment by reducing gender stereotyping and by promoting women in the labor market to achieve self-realization through careers. Taking advantage of China's higher education expansion in the late 1990s for empirical analysis, I estimate an intention-to-treat effect using individual level data from China General Social Survey 2010, 2012, and 2013. The empirical results show that the reform has significantly increased higher education attainment for both men and women. However, it did not change gender norms. The results may be attributed to the fact that there is little improvement of women's disadvantaged status in the labor market after the expansion. This suggests that it is critical to promote gender equality in the labor market to foster female empowerment.

WORK IN PROGRESS PROJECTS

“The Long-run Career Effect of Early Research Experience”

with Qi Wang and Carter Walter Bloch

We exploit evidence from Danish scientists to explore whether doing research abroad during a researcher's postdoc phase would affect his or her long-run career accomplishments.

“The Effect of Social Media on Science”

with Qi Wang

We explore whether the use of social media like *Twitter* has a positive effect on promoting scientific output and increasing research productivity in academia.

“Planning for Bicycle Tourism: Estimating the Economic Effects of Bicycle Tourism in Two Swedish Regions”

with Tobias Heldt

We evaluate the economic contribution of bicycle tourism in two specific destinations in Sweden and to estimate the willingness to pay for changes in key variables of importance for the tourist's choice of bicycle destination.

PRESENTATIONS

- Dec 2017 ASIAN AND AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY OF LABOUR ECONOMICS INAUGURAL CONFERENCE
Australian National University, Canberra, Australia (*scheduled*)
- Nov 2017 LUNCH SEMINAR, Department of Economics, Stockholm School of Economics
(*scheduled*)
- Oct 2017 BROWN BAG SEMINAR, Department of Economics, Stockholm University
- Sep 2017 THE STOCKHOLM UPPSALA DOCTORAL STUDENTS' WORKSHOP IN ECONOMICS,
Stockholm School of Economics
- Aug 2017 38TH NORDIC HEALTH ECONOMISTS STUDY GROUP MEETING, Helsinki, Finland
- Feb 2017 ENTER SEMINAR, Tilburg University, Netherlands
- Sep 2016 THE STOCKHOLM UPPSALA DOCTORAL STUDENTS' WORKSHOP IN ECONOMICS,
Stockholm University
- Jun 2016 3RD INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR APPLIED ECONOMETRICS ANNUAL CONFERENCE,
University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy
- Feb 2016 4TH ANNUAL WARWICK ECONOMICS PHD CONFERENCE, Warwick University, UK
- Oct 2015 BROWN BAG SEMINAR, Department of Economics, Stockholm University
- Aug 2015 36TH NORDIC HEALTH ECONOMISTS STUDY GROUP MEETING, Uppsala, Sweden

ACADEMIC WORKING EXPERIENCE

FALL 2013 to SPRING 2015	TEACHING ASSISTANT Intermediate Microeconomics for Prof. Hans WIJKANDER and Prof. Jonas VLACHOS Department of Economics, Stockholm University
SUMMER 2014	RESEARCH ASSISTANT for Prof. David STRÖMBERG IIES, Stockholm University
SUMMER 2012	RESEARCH ASSISTANT for Prof. Tobias HELDT Department of Economics, Dalarna University

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

<i>August</i> 2017	BEST STUDENT PAPER 38th Nordic Health Economists Study Group meeting
<i>Acad. year</i> 2013-2014	DOCTORAL STUDY GRANT (UTBILDNINGSBIDRAG) Department of Economics, Stockholm University
<i>Acad. year</i> 2012-2013	PHD STUDENT STIPEND (STIPENDIUM) Widar Bagges Scholarship Foundation, Sweden
<i>Acad. year</i> 2007-2008	MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP Tianjin Municipality, China

SOFTWARE SKILLS

Stata | R | Eviews | \LaTeX | Microsoft Office | Python | ArcGIS

LANGUAGES

CHINESE: Native
ENGLISH: Fluent

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