

HANNA WANG

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Interview Dates:

EEA: 12/6 - 7, Naples, Italy
ASSA: 1/4 - 6, Atlanta, USA

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Personal Information

Citizenship: German
Languages: German (native), Chinese (native), English (fluent), Spanish (basic), French (basic)

Undergraduate Studies

B.Sc., Economics, University of Southampton, First-Class Honours, 2013

Graduate Studies

University of Pennsylvania, 2013 to present
Thesis Title: "Essays in Labor Economics"
Expected Completion Date: May 2019

Thesis Committee and References:

Professor Petra Todd (Primary Advisor)
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Teaching and Research Fields

Labor Economics, Family Economics, Search and Matching

Teaching Experience

Fall 2014 International Finance, Teaching Assistant for Professor Enrique Mendoza
 Spring 2015 Law and Economics, Teaching Assistant for Professor Camilo Garcia-Jimeno
 Fall 2015 Industrial Organization, Teaching Assistant for Professor Aislinn Bohren
 Spring 2016 Industrial Organization, Teaching Assistant for Professor SangMok Lee
 Summer, Fall 2016, Summer 2017 Introduction to Microeconomics, Course Instructor
 Spring 2017, 2018 Microeconometrics, Teaching Assistant for Professor Petra Todd
 Fall 2017 Game Theory, Teaching Assistant for Professor Annie Liang

Research Experience and Other Employment

2015-2017 Research Assistant for Professor Miguel Abito
 The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

Honors, Scholarships and Fellowships

August 2018 AEA CSWEP Summer Fellowship at the Federal Reserve Bank at St. Louis
 June-July 2018 Dissertation Fellowship of the American Institute for Contemporary German
 Studies and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
 2018 President Gutmann Leadership Award
 2014-2018 Dean's Subvention Fund (School of Arts and Sciences)
 2014-2018 Travel Grant (School of Arts and Sciences)
 2014-2018 Research Student Grant (Graduate and Professional Student Assembly)
 2013-2018 Graduate Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania

Research Papers

"Fertility and Family Leave Policies in Germany: Optimal Policy Design in a Dynamic Framework" (Job Market Paper)

I develop and estimate a life-cycle discrete-choice model of fertility and female labor supply to study optimal design of a range of child-related policies. I first evaluate two recent German reforms: A change in parental leave from fixed payments to wage-contingent payments for a shorter duration and an expansion of low-cost public childcare. I find that the parental leave reform increases fertility and lowers employment rates but only among highly-educated women, whereas the childcare reform increases fertility and employment evenly across all women. Second, I solve for an optimal policy portfolio that satisfies the post-reform budget. The objectives I consider are maximizing overall fertility with utility constraints and maximizing welfare with fertility constraints. The first solution increases fixed subsidies and decreases the wage replacement rate to encourage fertility among less educated women. The second increases childcare subsidies to achieve higher employment and consumption. Both solutions cut taxes for single mothers, thereby providing insurance against divorce to married mothers. Compared to post-reform levels of fertility and welfare, substantial improvements are achieved. The first solution increases fertility by 4% and the second results in a welfare gain equivalent to 0.5% of consumption.

"Ranking and Search Effort in Matching" with Joonbae Lee

This paper studies the relationship between search effort and workers' ranking by employers. We propose a matching model in which employers' common preferences over a continuum of heterogeneous workers affect the incentives of workers to choose a number of applications to send out. We show that in equilibrium, the relationship is hump-shaped if there is a sufficiently large number of workers relative to vacancies: Highly-ranked and lowly-ranked workers send out fewer applications than workers of mid-range rank. This arises due to two opposing forces driving the incentive of applicants. Increasing the number of applications acts as insurance against unemployment, but is less effective when the probability of success for each application is low. This mechanism exacerbates the negative employment outcomes of low-rank workers. We discuss comparative statics with regards to the size of the vacancy pool and application cost, and show that, in contrast to the market equilibrium, planner's solution exhibits the number of applications monotonously decreasing in rank.

Computer Skills

Statistical Analysis: R, STATA
 Programming: Fortran, Python, Matlab