

WEI ZHENG (updated: April 2024)

**Personal Information**

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**Employment**

Post-doctoral Researcher, University of Barcelona	2024 - present
Assistant Professor, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics	2021- 2024

**Education**

Ph.D., Economics, University of Connecticut, Storrs	2021
M.S., Quantitative Economics, University of Connecticut, Storrs	2021
M.S., Management, Grenoble Ecole de Management, France	2016
M.S., Finance, Tongji University, China	2016
B.A., Economics, Liaoning University, China	2014

**Areas of Research**

Public Policy and Applied Policy Evaluation, Labor Economics, Health Economics, Applied Microeconomics

**Research Paper**

*Child Tax Credit and Maternal Labor Supply (Job Market Paper, under review)*

Child Tax Credit (CTC) gives partially refundable tax credit to filers who have children younger than 17 years old and who owe tax. For individuals whose income is within the subsidy range, the trapezoid structure of CTC provides work incentives when the substitution effects outweigh the income effects. In this paper, I examine the effects of CTC on maternal labor supply by difference-in-difference design and simulation method. I show that \$1000 increase in average CTC are associated with 1.13 percentage points increase in labor force participation and 0.37 hour increase in weekly working hours for single mothers. This labor supply effect is driven by mothers whose youngest child is between 3 and 5 years old. I don't find any reduction in labor supply for mothers from higher socio-economic status, who consider CTC benefits as a lump-sum subsidy.

*The Effects of Child Tax Credit on Child Health (with David Simon)*

Health of children requires financial and parental time investments. The expansions of refundable Child Tax Credit (CTC) not only increase family income through refundable tax credits but also encourage mothers to participate in the labor market, increase working hours and move their children to non-parental childcare arrangements. Using the variation in federal CTC, I show weak association between child's physical health and CTC expansions with decreased school loss days due to illness. Black children benefit from the CTC expansions both in physical and mental health significantly. Although I didn't conclude clear and significant causal effects, this paper indicates unexpected negative associations between child health and fewer parental care.

*The Impacts of New Jersey Paid Family Leave on On-time Childhood Immunization*

*The Effect of Government COVID-19 Containment Measures on Mental Health in China (with Jingwei Huang)*

*How Does Better Parental Education Affect Child Educational Outcomes in China? (with Jingwei Huang, Haiyang Kong and Yixing Tian, R&R in Applied Economics)*

### **Professional Activities and Service**

Referee: *PLOS one*, *Frontiers in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*

### **Presentations and Conference**

*2023*

Chinese Labor Economist annual meeting, July

YES x Chengdu Forum, May

Shanghai University of Finance and Economics Seminar, April

2023 Virtual SIPP Conference, Jan

*2022*

Southwestern University of Finance and Economics Brownbag Seminar, Oct

Shandong University Economics Seminar, July

Xiamen University Biweekly Economics Seminar, May

*2021*

International Symposium on Contemporary Labor Economics, October

*2020*

Southern Economic Association 2020 annual meeting, November

University of Connecticut, Department of Economics, October

Eastern Economic Association 2020 annual meeting, February

*2019*

American Society of Health Economics 2019 meeting, June

*2017*

New Frontiers in Development Economics Conference, October

### **Work Referenced in Media**

“[New research finds the Child Tax Credit promotes work](#)”, Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Niskanen Center

### **Teaching Experience**

Instructor

Big Data Model in Tax Administration

Spring 2023

Tax Law Spring 2022; Fall 2022;Spring 2023;Fall 2023  
Intermediate Microeconomics Fall 2019

Teaching Assistant  
Principles of Microeconomics Fall 2017; Fall 2018; Spring 2019  
Contemporary Issues in Economics Fall 2020

Graduate Assistant  
Labor Economics Spring 2018  
Game Theory Spring 2017  
Public Finance Fall 2016

### **Honors, Scholarship, Fellowship**

International Travel Fellowship, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics 2021  
Eleanor Bloom Summer Research Fellowship, University of Connecticut 2018;2019;2020  
Abraham Ribicoff Graduate Fellowship 2018  
Health-Lab Summer Fellowship, University of Connecticut 2018  
Timothy A. and Beverly C. Holt Economics Fellowship 2017  
Department of Economics Pre-Doctoral Fellowship 2016

### **Others**

Program Skills: Stata, R, Python, LATEX  
Language: English (fluent), Chinese(native), French(basic)