

SOPHIA YING LIU

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston, MA, May 2021 (expected)

Dissertation Title: *Essays on Health and Human Capital Development*

Dissertation Committee: Robert Margo, Daniele Paserman, Randall Ellis

M.A., Economics, Boston University, Boston, MA, 2016

B.S., Business Administration, University of California Riverside, Riverside, CA
(*Magna Cum Laude*), 2010

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Health Economics, Economic History, Empirical Microeconomics

PUBLICATION

“Diagnostic Category Prevalence in 3 Classification Systems Across the Transition to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification”
(Randall P. Ellis, Heather E. Hsu, Chenlu Song, Tzu-Chun Kuo, Bruno Martins, Jeffrey J. Siracuse, Ying Liu, Arlene S. Ash) *JAMA Network Open*, 3.4 (2020): e202280-e202280.

WORKING PAPERS

“Re-evaluating the Effects of the 1918 Influenza Pandemic on Human Capital Development: The Role of the Great Depression”, Job Market Paper.

“Is Intergenerational Transmission of Human Capital One-way? Evidence from Civil War Veterans and Their Children” September 2020.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Understanding pneumonia, influenza and COVID-19 infections: seasonality, social distancing, treatment, costs, and implications” (with Randall Ellis, Alex Hoagland et al.),

“Diagnostic Items: A New Framework for Disease Surveillance, Prediction and Risk Adjustment” (with Randall P Ellis, et al.), October 2020

PRESENTATIONS

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Vienna, VA, 2016

Harvard University Graduate Student Workshop in Economic History, Boston, MA 2020
Economic History Association, Young Scholars Initiative (YSI), 2020

WORK EXPERIENCE

Researcher, National Bureau of Economic Research, Summer 2016
Research Assistant for Randall Ellis, Department of Economics, Boston University, 2018-2020
Research Assistant for Melissa McInerney, Department of Economics, Tufts University,
Summer 2018
Research Assistant for Robert Margo, Department of Economics, Boston University,
2015-2016
Cost Analyst, Able Card LLC, Azusa, CA, 2014-2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Principles of Microeconomics, Department of Economics,
Boston University, 2017 and 2020
Teaching Assistant, Managerial Economics, Questrom School of Business, Boston University,
2018-2020

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Organizer, Health Economics Reading Group, Department of Economics, Boston University,
2018

COMPUTER SKILLS: R, STATA, SAS, Python, ArcGIS, LaTeX

CITIZENSHIP/VISA STATUS: USA

REFERENCES

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SOPHIA YING LIU

Re-evaluating the Effects of the 1918 Influenza Pandemic on Human Capital Development: The Role of the Great Depression (Job Market Paper)

This paper examines the effects of the 1918 Influenza Pandemic and the Great Depression on an individual's educational attainments and labor market outcomes. I build a new dataset of county-level influenza mortality from 1918 to 1920 and combine with various Great Depression measures to document their effects. These measures are combined with a newly assembled dataset linking census data on childhood household characteristics to adult outcomes from military records. I estimate the interactive effects of the Great Depression and the pandemic exposure, utilizing their wide geographic variations. This paper finds that the Great Depression mitigates the effects on the Pandemic on the flu birth cohorts, leading to higher educational attainments. These results suggest that without the Great Depression, the influenza birth cohorts would have even lower human capital investments and worse labor market outcomes.

Is Intergenerational Transmission of Human Capital One-way? Evidence from Civil War Veterans and Their Children

Existing literature on intergenerational transmission of human capital usually take the top-down approach - study the relationship from parents to their descendants. This paper takes a backward approach and studies the effects of children's education on their parents' human capital. Using the exogenous variations in the Compulsory Attendance Laws, Child Labor Laws and Continuation Schooling Laws in different states from 1880 to 1930, this paper finds higher children's education increases parents' longevity and lowers their mortality from specific chronic diseases among the American Civil War veterans and their spouses.