

Shun Wang

Department of Economics
University of British Columbia
997-1873 East Mall
Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6T 1Z1

Mobile: +1 (778) 836-0677
Home: +1 (778) 371-2727
Email: swangubc@hotmail.com
Website: grad.econ.ubc.ca/shunwang

Education

2011 (expected), Ph.D. in Economics, University of British Columbia, Canada
Thesis: “Essays on Social Capital, Institutions, and Economic Development in China”
Supervisor: Patrick Francois
2004, M.A. in Economics, Peking University, China
2002, B.A. in Business Administration, Peking University, China

Research and Teaching Fields

Applied Microeconomics, Institutions and Development
Health and Subjective Well-Being, Agriculture and Environment

Research Experience

2009-present, Academic Assistant for Prof. John F. Helliwell, Subjective Well-Being
2009-2010, RA for Prof. Sylvia Fuller, Economic Sociology
2006-2007, RA for Prof. Kevin Milligan, Labor Economics
2005-2006, RA for Prof. Henry Siu, Macroeconomics

Referee Experience

Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Environment and Development Economics,
Social Service Review

Teaching Experience

2009, TA for Understanding Globalization
2008, TA for Statistics for Land and Food Systems
2007 & 2008, TA for Intermediate Microeconomics
2007, TA for Issues in Economic Development
2006 & 2008, TA for Principles of Macroeconomics
2005 & 2007, TA for Principles of Microeconomics
2005, TA for Methods of Empirical Research in Economics

Publications

“Trust and Well-Being” (with John F. Helliwell), *International Journal of Wellbeing* 1(1), 2011, 42-78.
“Social Capital, Local Government, and Water User Associations”, *Research Report for IDRC-EEPSEA*, 2010
“Global Economic Case for Addressing Social Determinants of Health and of Health Inequalities”, *Research Report for Public Health Agency of Canada*, 2010

Honors, Fellowships, and Grants

2011, *Travel Grant*, Canadian Economic Association
2009-2011, *Research Fellowship*, the “Social Interactions, Identity and Well-Being” Program of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR)
2009, *Travel Grant*, UBC Department of Economics
2009-2010, *Research Fellowship*, UBC Department of Sociology
2008-2009, *Award for Doctoral Fieldwork*, IDRC-EEPSEA
2006-2007, *University Graduate Fellowship*, UBC Faculty of Graduate Studies
2005-2007, *Research Fellowship*, UBC Department of Economics
2005-2010, *Teaching Fellowship*, UBC Department of Economics
2002-2004, *PG Logistics Graduate Scholarship*, PG Logistics Group Co.
2003, *Award For Excellence in Graduate Study*, Peking University

Conferences and Presentations

2011, The 16th World Congress of the International Economic Association, Beijing
2011, Canadian Economic Association Annual Meeting, Ottawa
2011, Empirical Lunch Workshop, UBC Department of Economics, Vancouver
2010, NBER Summer Institute, Cambridge
2010, Empirical Lunch Workshop, UBC Department of Economics, Vancouver
2010, American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta
2009, Canadian Economic Association Annual Meeting, Toronto
2009, Department of Environmental Sciences, Peking University, Beijing
2009, DIET Lunch Workshop, UBC Department of Economics, Vancouver
2004, Public Economic Theory Conference, Beijing

Additional Information

Citizen of P.R. China and Permanent Resident of Canada
Languages: Chinese (native), English (fluent)
IT skills: Stata, SAS, Matlab, Microsoft Office

References

Prof. Patrick Francois (supervisor)
Department of Economics
University of British Columbia
+1 (604) 822-4608
francois@interchange.ubc.ca

Prof. John F. Helliwell
Department of Economics
University of British Columbia
+1 (604) 822-4953
john.helliwell@ubc.ca

Prof. Kathy Baylis
Department of Agricultural and
Consumer Economics, UIUC
+1 (512) 657-8758
baylis@illinois.edu

Job Market Paper

“Bridging versus Bonding Social Capital and Managing the Firewood Commons” (with Kathy Baylis and Yazhen Gong)

Abstract: We compare the effect of bridging versus bonding social capital on the management of a common pool resource in this paper. We first develop a theoretical model and show that bonding social capital increases vulnerability to social sanction, while by giving communities an outside option, bridging social capital can reduce people’s vulnerability, making them less susceptible to social sanction, and reducing the enforcement capability of the community. We then test this finding using household level data on firewood collection and social capital from the Yunnan province in China. We find that bonding social capital improves management of the common pool resource, but that the effect of bridging social capital is mixed. When bonding social capital is low, bridging social capital decreases the amount of resource consumption, however when bonding is high, bridging erode the effect of bonding. We also find that individuals with higher bridging social capital are less sensitive to the resource capacity, and those with few assets therefore few options to self-insure against risk, decrease their consumption with higher bridging social capital.

Other Papers

“Weekends and Subjective Well-Being” (with John F. Helliwell), *NBER Working Paper No. 17180*, reported by the *Wall Street Journal*, submitted to *Canadian Journal of Economics*

Abstract: This paper exploits the richness and large sample size of the Gallup/Healthways US daily poll to illustrate significant differences in the dynamics of two key measures of subjective well-being: emotions and life evaluations. We find that there is no day-of-week effect for life evaluations, represented here by the Cantril Ladder, but significantly more happiness, enjoyment, and laughter, and significantly less worry, sadness, and anger on weekends (including public holidays) than on weekdays. We then find strong evidence of the importance of the social context, both at work and at home, in explaining the size and likely determinants of the weekend effects for emotions. Weekend effects are twice as large for full-time paid workers as for the rest of the population, and are much smaller for those whose work supervisor is considered a partner rather than a boss and who report trustable and open work environments. A large portion of the weekend effects is explained by differences in the amount of time spent with friends or family between weekends and weekdays (7.1 vs. 5.4 hours). The extra daily social time of 1.7 hours in weekends raises average happiness by about 2%.

“The Long-Term Consequence of Family Class Origins in Urban China”, submitted to *Journal of Urban Economics*

Abstract: In this paper I study the long-term impact of class identity (*chengfen*) on individuals’ income and households’ wealth in urban China. The Chinese government launched movements to make income and consumption in cities substantially homogeneous and assigned an inheritable class identity to each family in the 1950s. The government then implemented class-based discriminatory policies against the rich and middle class until 1978. This paper shows that individuals with poor class origins have significantly lower income and family assets per capita than those from the rich class in 2002, however individuals with revolutionary background and Chinese Community Party (CCP) members from the poor class do not have lower income than those from the rich.

“Social Capital and Rotating Labor Associations: An Instrumental Variables Approach”, submitted to *Journal of Development Studies*

Abstract: In this paper I study whether social capital has an effect on household decisions to participate in Rotating Labor Associations (ROLAs) in rural China. I find that households in communities with higher levels of social capital are more likely to participate in ROLAs using household data collected from the Gansu province in China. The presence of village temple prior to 1949 is employed as an instrument for social capital. Numerous falsification exercises are performed to evaluate the efficacy of the instrumental variables approach.

Work in Progress

“A Structural Estimation of the Effects of Social Networks on Health Behaviors”

“Inequality and Well-Being” (with John F. Helliwell)

“Is Suicide Rate Higher where People Are Happier?”

“Evaluating Environment using Subjective Well-Being Data”