

Di Xu

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EDUCATION

- 2013** Ph.D in Economics and Education, Teachers College, Columbia University,
Thesis Title: Three Essays on the Impact of Cost-saving Strategies on Student Outcomes in Community Colleges
(AIR Dissertation Grant, National Science Foundation, \$20,000, 2011)
- 2009** M.A. in Sociology of Education, Teachers College, Columbia University,
- 2006** University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, M.Phil in Research on Second Language Education
- 2005** Peking University, China, English Language and Literature

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND EMPLOYMENT

- 2015-present Assistant Professor, School of Education, University of California, Irvine
- 2013-2015 Postdoctoral Research Associate, Community College Research Center, Teachers College, Columbia University
- 2012-2013 Research Associate, CCRC, Teachers College, Columbia University
- 2011-2012 Senior Research Assistant, CCRC, Teachers College, Columbia University
- 2009-2011 Research Assistant, Community College Research Center

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles:

- Xu, D. & Jaggars, S.S. (2014). Performance gaps between online and face-to-face courses: Differences across types of students and academic subject areas. *Journal of Higher Education*, 85, 633-659. [lead author]
- Bickerstaff, S., Lontz, B., Cormier, M., & Xu, D. (2014). Redesigning arithmetic for student success: Supporting faculty to teach in new ways. *New Directions for Community Colleges*, 167, 5-14.
- Xu, D. & Jaggars, S.S. (2013). The impact of online learning on students' course outcomes: Evidence from a large community and technical college system. *Economics of Education Review*, 37, 46-57. [lead author]
- Xu, D. & Jaggars, S.S. (2011). The effectiveness of distance education across Virginia's community colleges: Evidence from introductory college-level math and English courses. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 33, 360-377. [lead author]
- Eastern Evaluation Research Society Certificate of Distinction**
- Gong, X., Xu, D., & Han, W. J. (forthcoming). The impact of household income on preschool attendance in China: A household fixed effects approach. *Child Development*.
- Jaggars, S.S., Hodara, M., Cho, S.W. & Xu, D. (forthcoming) Accelerated Developmental Education: A synthesis of Empirical Evidence. *Community College Review*.
- Xu, D., & Fletcher, J. (forthcoming) What Are the Economic Benefit of Various Pathways in Community Colleges in the U.S.? In Shah, M., & Whiteford, G. (Eds). *Bridges, Pathways and Transitions: International Innovations in Widening Participation*. Chandos Publishing

Articles under Review or under Preparation for Journal Submission

Do the lowest levels of remedial math generate positive effects for community college students?

- [with Mina Dadgar, Revise and Resubmit]
 Examining Wage Trajectories of Community College Students Using Growth Curve Modeling Approach. [Revise and Resubmit, with Shanna Smith Jaggars] (also available as a CAPSEE and CCRC working paper)
- What about certificates? Evidence on the labor market returns to non-degree community college awards in two states. [with Madeline Joy Trimble, Revise and Resubmit, lead author] (also available as a CAPSEE and CCRC working paper)
- Does developmental education improve labor market outcomes? Evidence from two states [with Michelle Hodara, Revise and Resubmit, equal author] (also available as a CAPSEE and CCRC working paper)
- Discrimination or characteristics? A revisit to the gender wage gap in urban china. [with Xin Gong, under review, lead author]
- Assistance or obstacles? The impact of different levels of English remediation on under-prepared students in community colleges. [under review, lead author] (also a forthcoming CCRC working paper)
- Examining the impact of adjunct instructors on student current and sequential course outcomes in a community college System [under review] (also a forthcoming CCRC working paper)

Other Published Policy Reports and Working Papers:

- Edgecombe, N., Jaggars, S.S., Xu, D., & Barragan, M. (2014). An analysis of Chabot College's accelerated developmental English pathway. (Working Paper No.71). New York, NY: Columbia University, Teachers College, Community College Research Center.
- Jaggars, S.S & Xu, D. (2013). Predicting online student outcomes from a measure of course Quality. (Working Paper No.57). New York, NY: Columbia University, Teachers College, Community College Research Center.
- Xu, D. & Jaggars, S.S. (2013). Adaptability to online learning: differences across types of students and academic subject Areas. (Working Paper No.54). New York, NY: Columbia University, Teachers College, Community College Research Center. [lead author]
Cited in New York Times Editorial, February 18, 2013; ABC News, February 21, 2013; Chronicle of Higher Education, February 22, 2013; Inside Higher Ed February 25, 2013; Diverse Issues in Higher Education, March 27, 2013 and other outlets.
- Bailey, T. & Xu, D. (2012). Input-adjusted graduation rates and college accountability: What is known from twenty years of research? Context For Success
http://www.hcmstrategists.com/contextforsuccess/papers/LIT_REVIEW.pdf
- Xu, D. & Jaggars, S.S. (2011). Online and hybrid course enrollment and performance in Washington state community and technical colleges. (Working Paper No.31). New York, NY: Columbia University, Teachers College, Community College Research Center. [lead author]
Cited in New York Times August 25, 2011; Inside Higher Education, July 19, 2011; The Chronicle of Higher Education, July 18, 2011
- Jaggars, S.S. & Xu, D. (2010). Online learning in the Virginia community college system. CCRC Working Paper. Available at:
<http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/publications/online-learning-virginia.html>

Research in Progress:

- Increasing College Completion and Equity through Strengthened Transfer Partnerships (with Davis Jenkins). Funded by Carnegie Corporation
- Comparison of Transfer and Native 4-year Students in Terms of Labor Market Outcomes. Funded by the US Department of Education through the Center for Analysis of Postsecondary Education and Employment (CAPSEE)
- What Are the Economic Benefit of Various Pathways in Community Colleges. Funded by

CAPSEE

Examining the Impact of Adjunct Instructors on Student Labor Market Outcomes. Funded by the Association of Education Finance and Policy and CAPSEE

Non-Credit Vocational Education in Community Colleges: Students, Enrollment Patterns, and Academic Outcomes. Funded by National Science Foundation through the Association for Institutional Research

The Impacts of Preschool Attendance on Teenagers' Cognitive and Non-cognitive Development in Rural and Urban China. Funded by NYU-ECNU Institute for Social Development at NYU Shanghai

Academic Commentary:

[Hurdles to the Improvement of Online Courses and Programs](#), *The Evolution: Illuminating the Lifelong Learning Movement*, May 2014

[Why Do Some Students Struggle Online?](#) *The Evolution: Illuminating the Lifelong Learning Movement*, July, 2013

[Three Strategies to Improve Online Courses](#), *The Evolution: Illuminating the Lifelong Learning Movement*, May, 2013

[Can Distance Education Boost Completion Rates?](#) *American Federation of Teachers*, March, 2013

[What Are the Economic Returns to Certificates?](#), *The Evolution: Illuminating the Lifelong Learning Movement*, January, 2015

Other:

Contributing author to *Encyclopedia of Education Economics and Finance* (2014), edited by Dominic Brewer and Lawrence Picus. SAGE Reference (Entry: "Partial and General Equilibrium")

RESEARCH GRANT AND ACADEMIC AWARDS

- *Investigating Virtual Learning Environments*, National Science Foundation (NSF), 2015-2020, CO-PI, \$2,500,000 (pending)
- *Online Collaborative Problem-Solving in Remedial College Mathematics Project Description, 2015-2017*, CO-PI, \$30,000 (pending)
- *The Impacts of Initial Enrollment in Two-Year Colleges on Student Academic and Labor Market Outcomes*, Institute for Education Sciences (IES), CAPSEE, Columbia University Teachers' College, 2015-2016, PI, \$40,000
- *Non-Credit Vocational Education in Community Colleges*, NSF-AIR Research Grant, Association of Institutional Research, NSF, 2014-2015, CO-PI, \$40,000
- *Increasing College Completion and Equity Through Strengthened Transfer Partnerships*, Carnegie Corporation Research Grant, 2014-2015, CO-PI, \$380,000
- NYU-ECNU Research Grant, Institute for Social Development at NYU Shanghai, 2014-2015, PI, \$5,000
- AEFPP New Scholar Grant, Association for Education Finance and Policy, 2014, PI, \$3,000
- Eastern Evaluation Research Society Certificate of Distinction, 2012
- NSF-AIR Dissertation Grant, Association of Institutional Research, National Science Foundation, 2011, PI, \$20,000
- Arvid & Mary Burke Fellowship, Teachers College, Columbia University, 2009-2011
- Teachers College General Scholarship, Columbia University, 2006-2010
- Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (SYLFF) Grant, Summer 2010

- Daniel and Mariane Spiegel Fund Grant, Summer 2010
- Wing Yip Scholarship granted to outstanding Chinese student in UK, Wing Yip and Brothers, 2006
- Graduate Scholarship, Cambridge Overseas Trust, Cambridge University, 10/2005

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Workshop: Linking College and Labor Market Datasets for Research on the Labor Market Returns to College. Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference (AEFP) pre-conference workshop, 2014

Teaching assistant: Teachers College, Columbia University

- Policy Seminar (Spring 10, Spring 11)
- Seminar in Educational Leadership (Summer I 07)
- Ecology of Data-Driven Educational Leadership (Summer II 07)
- School Finance/Policy and Practice (Spring 08)

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Examining the Wage Trajectories Using a Piecewise Growth Curve Modeling Approach, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Annual Conference (APPAM), 2014

Educational and labor Market Analyses of Administrative Data, APPAM, 2014

Online Learning: Academic and Labor Market Outcomes, CAPSEE, 2014

Experimental and Quasi-experiment Evidence on the Impact of Teaching Modalities and Teachers on Student Performance in Public Universities and Community Colleges, American Economic Association Conference (AEA) on Teaching and Research in Economic Education, 2014

Examining Wage Trajectories of Community College Students Using a Growth Curve Modeling Approach, AEFP, 2014

Labor Market Returns to Community College Student Pathways, APPAM, 2013

The Impact of Adjunct Instructors on Student Academic Outcomes, AEFP, 2013

The Returns to Remediation: Evidence from North Carolina and Virginia, AEFP, 2013

Estimating the Returns to Short-term and Long-term Certificates, AEFP, 2013

Multilevel Propensity Score Matching in Educational Research, Eastern Evaluation Research Society, 2012

Assistance or Obstacle? The Impact of Different Levels of English Remediation on Underprepared Students in Community Colleges, AEFP, 2012

Enhancing Online Course Quality through Multimedia and Interactive Technology, League for Innovation in the Community College Annual Conference, 2012

Does Distance Education Work for Me: Exploring the Heterogeneous Impacts of Online Learning among Different Subjects and Students, APPAM, 2011

The Impact of English of Remediation on Community College Student Academic Outcomes, Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference (ASHE), 2011

Predicting Online Student Outcomes from a Measure of Course Quality, Sloan-C Annual Conference, 2011

Does Course Delivery Format Matter? Examining Online Learning in a State Community College System Using an Instrumental Variable Approach, AEFP, 2011

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Journal Referee: Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis; Economics of Education Review; Journal of Higher Education; Research in Higher Education; Community College Review; Journal of Online Learning and Teaching; International Journal of Vocational and Technical Education; Education Finance and Policy
