

## **CLAIRE HOU**

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### **PLACEMENT DIRECTORS**

Prof. Guido Kuersteiner	<a href="mailto:gkuerste@umd.edu">gkuerste@umd.edu</a>	(301) 405-3493
Prof. Katharine Abraham	<a href="mailto:kabraham@umd.edu">kabraham@umd.edu</a>	(301) 405-3489
Prof. Nolan Pope	<a href="mailto:npope@umd.edu">npope@umd.edu</a>	(801) 995-9184

### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, expected May 2022  
M.A. Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, 2018  
B.A. Economics, Statistics, University of Chicago, 2013

### **FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Primary: Labor Economics  
Secondary: Demographic Economics, Health

### **DISSERTATION**

*Essays on Self-Employment, Health Policy, and Child Welfare*

Committee: Prof. Judith Hellerstein (Chair), Prof. Katharine Abraham, Prof. Nolan Pope

### **JOB MARKET PAPER**

“The Opioid Crisis and Foster Care Dynamics”

A growing literature suggests that the opioid crisis has negatively impacted children. This paper builds on prior work by separately identifying the causal effects of parental illicit opioid use and prescription opioid (PO) misuse on foster care entry and caseload after 2010. Two baseline opioid supply measures from 2000, at the onset of the opioid crisis, instrument for post-2010 changes in opioid overdose death rates among adults of prime parenting age. Using county-level mortality data and administrative foster care records, I find that moving from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of change in the illicit opioid death rate leads to a 1.1 (2.4) standard deviations larger percent growth in foster care entry (caseload). In contrast, a 10<sup>th</sup> to 90<sup>th</sup> percentile difference in the change in PO misuse has no overall effect. Female illicit opioid use has larger effects than male illicit opioid use, and effects are concentrated among White children. Illicit opioid use has similar effects across all placement settings, whereas PO misuse only increases entry to kinship care.

### **OTHER RESEARCH PAPERS**

“Reconciling Survey and Administrative Measures of Self-Employment,” *Journal of Labor Economics*, 39(4), 2021, with Katharine Abraham, John Haltiwanger, Kristin Sandusky, and James Spletzer

“The Effect of Expanding Medicaid Eligibility on Self-Employment Dynamics,” 2020, working paper

“Driving the Gig Economy,” 2021, working paper, with Katharine Abraham, John Haltiwanger, Kristin Sandusky, and James Spletzer

“Self-Employment in the Transition to Retirement,” 2018, working paper, with Katharine Abraham, John Haltiwanger, Kristin Sandusky, and James Spletzer

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Instructor, Economics of Education Policy (undergraduate), University of Maryland, Summer 2019  
Teaching Assistant, Principles of Microeconomics (undergraduate), University of Maryland, Fall 2016 and Spring 2017

### **RESEARCH AND RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE**

Social Science Analyst Intern, U.S. Census Bureau, Suitland, MD, November 2017- Present  
Research Programmer, Mathematica Policy Research, Washington, DC, July 2015- June 2016  
Research Associate, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN, June 2013- June 2015

### **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant, University of Maryland, Fall 2021

### **CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS**

2022: Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Fall Research Conference (scheduled),  
2021: U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, Interdisciplinary Seminar, 2020: AEA Annual Meeting (coauthor presented), 2019: Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting (coauthor presented), Russell Sage Foundation (coauthor presented), 1st Annual Washington Area Labor Economics Symposium (coauthor presented), 2018: Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research Working Longer and Retirement Conference (coauthor presented)

### **LANGUAGES**

English (native), Mandarin Chinese (fluent), French (basic)

### **COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS**

Stata, SAS, R

### **REFERENCES**

Prof. Judith Hellerstein	University of Maryland	<a href="mailto:hellerst@umd.edu">hellerst@umd.edu</a>	(301) 405-3545
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