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Personal Information:

Citizenship: Hong Kong, China. Languages: Chinese, English.

Undergraduate Studies:

B.A., Applied Mathematics, Harvard University, *summa cum laude*, 2004

Graduate Studies:

Harvard University, 2004 to present

Thesis Title: "Infectious Disease, Malnutrition, and Economic Development"

Expected Completion Date: June 2010

References:

Professor David Cutler (primary advisor)
Department of Economics
Harvard University
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Professor David Canning
Department of Global Health and Population
Harvard School of Public Health
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Professor Erica Field
Department of Economics
Harvard University
(617) 496-1895, efield@latte.harvard.edu

Professor Christopher Avery (teaching reference)
Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy
Harvard Kennedy School
(617) 496-4063, chris_avery@harvard.edu

Teaching and Research Fields:

Development Economics, Health Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Teaching Experience:

2007-2009	<i>Research in Labor Economics</i> (undergraduate), Harvard, Instructor
2006-2007	<i>Research in Public Economics</i> (undergraduate), Harvard, Instructor
2005, 2006	<i>Microeconomic Theory II</i> (graduate), Harvard, Teaching Fellow for Professors Christopher Avery, Jerry Green, and Nolan Miller
2004, 2005	<i>Microeconomic Theory I</i> (graduate), Harvard, Teaching Fellow for Professors Christopher Avery, Jerry Green, and Nolan Miller
2005	<i>Public Economics</i> (undergraduate), Harvard, Teaching Fellow for Professors David Cutler, Mihir Desai, Martin Feldstein, and Caroline Hoxby

Research Experience:

- 2003 Research Assistant for Professor Douglas Almond, NBER
2002-2003 Research Assistant for Professor Oren Bar-Gill, Harvard Society of Fellows

Professional Activities:

Conference presentations:

- 2009 International Conference on Modern World Famines, University of Melbourne
2009 3rd Annual Hewlett/PRB Research Conference on Population, Reproductive Health, and Economic Development, University College Dublin
2008 Chinese Economists Society North American Conference, University of Regina
2007 7th Annual Trans-Atlantic Doctoral Conference, London Business School

Consultant, Human Development Report Office, United Nations Development Program

Referee, *The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy*

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

- 2009-2010 Harvard University Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship
2008-2010 Hewlett Foundation/IIIE Dissertation Fellowship
2008 Chinese Economists Society North American Conference Best Student Paper Award
2006-2009 Mustard Seed Foundation Harvey Fellowship
2006 Harvard University GIC Award for Excellence in Teaching Economics
2004-2009 Harvard Business School Wyss Doctoral Fellowship

Publications:

“*Intergenerational Effects of the 1959-61 China Famine*” (with Wei Ha). In Fuentes-Nieva and Seck (eds.) *Risk, Shocks and Human Development: On the Brink*, Palgrave-Macmillan, London (2009).

“*Taxation and the Evolution of Aggregate Corporate Ownership Concentration*” (with Mihir Desai and Dhammika Dharmapala). In Auerbach, Hines, and Slemrod (eds.) *Taxing Corporate Income in the 21st Century*, Cambridge University Press (2007).

Research Papers:

“*Early Childhood Malnutrition and Adult Obesity: Evidence from the 1959-61 China Famine*”
(Job Market Paper)

Developing countries today face the paradoxical dual burden of malnutrition and obesity. It has been hypothesized that early childhood malnutrition leads to a higher risk of adult obesity, though evidence is mixed. I study the health outcomes and health behaviors of adult men and women who were born during the 1959-61 China Famine. I find that women who as infants were exposed to famine have a higher body mass index (BMI) of 0.84 kg/m² (3.7% higher) and are more likely to be obese (5 percentage points more) than women who were not exposed to famine. The effect of early childhood famine exposure increases along the BMI distribution. I do not find significant effects on obesity for men. I also find no evidence that the increase in BMI is differentially greater for the famine cohorts who are exposed to a food-rich environment in adult life than for the famine cohorts who are not. Using detailed individual-level data on food intake and physical activities, I show that the increase in BMI for famine-exposed women is not due to higher caloric or fat intakes nor to more sedentary lifestyles. A biological rather than a behavioral mechanism appears to underlie the association between early childhood malnutrition and adult obesity.

“*Early-Life Malaria Exposure and Adult Outcomes: Evidence from Malaria Eradication in India*”
(with David Cutler, Michael Kremer, Monica Singhal, and Tom Vogl) (revise and resubmit: *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*)

We examine the effects of exposure to malaria in early childhood on educational attainment

and economic status in adulthood by exploiting geographic variation in malaria prevalence in India prior to a nationwide eradication program in the 1950s. We find that the program led to modest increases in household per capita consumption for prime age men, and the effects for men are larger than those for women in most specifications. We find no evidence of increased educational attainment for men, and mixed evidence for women.

Research in Progress:

“Intergenerational Effects of the 1959-61 China Famine” (with Wei Ha)

Recent studies have documented the long-term economic effects of maternal and infant malnutrition. Little is known, however, about whether such effects have intergenerational persistence. Using a rich set of household and individual-level longitudinal survey data, we study the effects of the 1959-61 China Famine on the health and education outcomes of children whose parents were themselves born or conceived during the famine. We show that these children have a lower height-for-age and weight-for-age compared to those born to parents who have not been exposed to the famine. The negative effects do not disappear even after controlling for parents' health and education. Effects of mother's famine exposure are stronger than those of the father's. We find much stronger adverse effects for boys than for girls.