

ELAINE M. LIU

University of Houston
Department of Economics
McElhinney Hall 223D
Houston, TX 77004

Office: 713.743.3861
Fax: 713.743.3798
emliu@uh.edu
www.uh.edu/~emliu

ACADEMIC POSITION

University of Houston, Department of Economics
Assistant Professor of Economics, August 2008-

AFFILIATION

Abramson Center for Future Health, August 2008-
Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China, Summer 2006,
Winter 2006, Summer 2007

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Princeton University, June 2008
Dissertation Titled: "Essays on Development Economics in China"
Advisors: Alan Krueger, Anne Case, Carl Pray, Orley Ashenfelter

B.A. *magna cum laude*, Economics, Wellesley College, Jan 2003
Minor in Mathematics

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Development Economics, Health Economics, Behavioral Economics, Labor Economics

WORKING PAPERS

"Time to Change What to Sow: Risk Preferences and Technology Adoption Decisions of Cotton Farmers in China" (Revise and Resubmit requested by the *Review of Economics and Statistics*)

Abstract:

The slow diffusion of new technology in the agricultural sector of developing countries has long puzzled development economists. While most of the current empirical research on technology adoption focuses on credit constraints and learning spillovers, this paper examines the role of individual risk attitudes in the decision to adopt a new form of agricultural biotechnology in China. I conducted a survey and a field experiment to elicit the risk preferences of 320 Chinese farmers, who faced the decision of whether to adopt genetically modified Bt cotton a decade ago. Bt cotton is more effective in pest prevention and thus requires less pesticides than traditional cotton. In my analysis, I expand the measurement of risk preferences beyond expected utility theory to incorporate prospect theory parameters such as loss aversion and nonlinear probability weighting. Using the parameters elicited from the experiment, I find that farmers who behave more risk averse or more loss averse in the experiment adopt Bt cotton later. Farmers who overweight small probabilities adopt Bt cotton earlier.

"A Meta-Analysis of the Estimates of Returns to Schooling in China"

"Risk Preference and Pesticide Use by Cotton Farmers in China"

“Ethnic Minority Disadvantages in China’s Labor Market?” (with Reza Hasmath and Benjamin Ho)
Does Sorry Work? The Impact of Apology Laws in Medical Malpractice(with Benjamin Ho)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Impact of International Marriage Migration on Local Divorce Rates (with Jin-Tan Liu)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Referee

Economic Inquiry, NSF, Review of Economics and Statistics, Scandinavian Journal of Economics,
Pacific Economic Review

Teaching Experience

Instructor, Economics of Health Care (Undergraduate), University of Houston, Spring 2009
Teaching Assistant, Introductory Microeconomics, Princeton University, Fall 2006 and Spring 2006

Research Assistant

Professor Alan Krueger, Princeton University, 2005-2006
Professor Christina Paxson, Princeton University, Summer 2004
Professor Richard Eckaus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2001-2002
Professor Steve Pischke, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Summer 2000

Presentation and Conference

2009

Baylor College of Medicine, Biotechnology in Developing Countries Conference (UC Berkeley),
Texas A&M University, Southern Economic Conference

2008

North America Economic Science Association, Cornell University, China Summer Institute
(Dalian, China), New Techniques in Development Economics (Australian National University),
University of Houston, National University of Singapore, National Taiwan University, Hong
Kong University of Science and Technology.

2007

Princeton University, Rutgers University, Northeast Universities Development Consortium
Conference (discussant, poster presentation)

Assistant Commodity Trader, S&T International, Taiwan, Spring 2003

Summer Trading Intern, Deutsche Bank, New York, Summer 2002

HONORS AND AWARDS

University of Houston New Faculty Grant, 2009

John Parker Compton Memorial Fellowship in International Relations, 2007-2008

Princeton University Industrial Relations Section Research Grant, 2006

Princeton University Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship, 2004-2007

Princeton University Graduate School Fellowship, 2004-2007

Harold W. Dodds Honorific Fellowship, 2003-2004

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, 2003

Wellesley College, Economics Department Honors Program, 2003