

RUIMIN AO

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EDUCATION

2020 - **PhD Economics**, University College London
2019 - 20 **MRes Economics**, University College London
2018 - 19 **MSc Economics with Distinction**, University of Warwick
2014 - 18 **BSc Economics with Honors**, University of Nottingham Ningbo China

AFFILIATIONS

2023 - **Visiting PhD Student**, Institute for Fiscal Studies

SUPERVISORS

Professor Marcos Vera-Hernández

Department of Economics
University College London
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Dr. Terri Kneeland

Department of Economics
University of Calgary
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FIELD OF RESEARCH

Health Economics, Behavioural Economics, Development Economics, Public Economics.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- *Behaviour Under Addiction: Dynamic Choice Between Smoking and Vaping.*

I develop and estimate a dynamic discrete choice model of joint cigarette and e-cigarette use, built around two distinct but interacting product-specific addiction stocks. The two products are substitutes for all consumers, yet the strength of substitution varies sharply with prior addiction: a smoker's sensitivity to cigarette prices weakens as smoking addiction deepens, whereas a vaper's sensitivity to e-cigarette prices *strengthens* as vaping addiction deepens. The central finding is a striking asymmetry between the two taxes—a cigarette tax does little to curb smoking among the heaviest smokers, while an e-cigarette tax sharply reduces vaping but pushes former smokers and dual users back toward combustible cigarettes.

- *When climate change scrambles food prices, who sacrifices nutrition?*
- *The impact of discount retail stores on household consumption and wellbeing: evidence from the UK.*
- *Could doctor training improve knowledge and practice? An analysis of an RCT program in Yunnan, China.*

PHD COURSES TAKEN

- ECON0107 Macroeconomics
Course lecturer: Dr. Ralph Luetticke, Prof. Frank Portier, Prof. Vincent Sterk, Prof. Morten Ravn
- ECON0106 Microeconomics
Course lecturer: Prof. Martin Cripps, Prof. Philippe Jehiel, Prof. Vasiliki Skreta
- ECON0108 Econometrics
Course lecturers: Prof. Andrew Chesher, Prof. Toru Kitagawa, Prof. Martin Weidner and Dr. Daniel Wilhelm
- ECON0086 Topics in Applied Econometrics
Course lecturers: Prof. Aureo de Paula
- ECON0112 Experimental Economics
Course lecturers: Prof. Antonio Guarino, Dr. Terri Kneeland, Dr. Ryan Kendall
- ECONDEV Development Economics
Course lecturers: Prof. Imran Rasul, Prof. Jonas Hjort, Dr. Gabriel Ulyssea
- ECON Topics in Applied consumer theory
Course lecturer: Prof. Valérie Lechene

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2023 - TA for (BSc) Topics in Household Economics
Course lecturer: Prof. Valérie Lechene
- 2021 - TA for (MSc) Health Economics
Course lecturer: Prof. Marcos Vera-Hernández
- 2020 - 23 TA for (BSc) Applied Economics
Course lecturer: Dr. Dunli Li
- 2020 - 21 TA for (BSc) Quant. Economics & Econometrics
Course lecturers: Prof. Dennis kristensen, Aureo de Paula and Kirill Borusyak

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2022 - Research Assistant to Prof. Marcos Vera-Hernández
- 2017 Development & Planning Assistant, Ping An Health Cloud Ltd.
- 2015 - 16 Research Assistant to Prof. Chang Liu

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

2022 Best TA on 1st Year UG module (UCL)
2018 Outstanding Student Leader (UNNC)
2018 Outstanding Graduate, by Government of Zhejiang Province, China
2017 Head's Scholarship (UNNC)
2017 Guo-Hua Xing-Zhi Scholarship (UNNC)
2017 Outstanding Youth League Leader (UNNC)
2016 Dean's Scholarship (UNNC)
2015 Provost Scholarship (UNNC)
2014 Entrance Scholarship (UNNC)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Language Mandarin (native), English (fluent)

IT Skills Stata, L^AT_EX, Matlab, R, Python, MS Office