

# 1st CEANA Job Market Conference

November 10 (Thursday) 8-10pm (EST), TW/HK Time November 11 (Friday) 9-11am

Please register for the conference [here](#)

Each presenter has 25 minutes presentation with 5 minutes Q&A

Paper title: **The Rise of Specialized Firms** [\[click for pdf\]](#)

Presenter: [Kai-Jie Wu](#) (University of Rochester)

Abstract: This paper studies firm diversification over 6-digit NAICS industries in U.S. manufacturing. We find that firms specializing in fewer industries now account for a substantially greater share of production than 40 years ago. This reallocation reflects the faster growth of specialized firms rather than large firms specializing. As a result, specialized firms have displaced diversified firms among industry leaders; absent this reallocation industry concentration would have decreased. We hypothesize a positive relation between specialization and product quality, and we support this view by showing that specialized firms tend to charge higher unit prices and are more insulated against Chinese import competition. Incorporating our empirical findings, we propose a theory that provides a new view on rising industry concentration: because quality is a luxury, this trend can be a natural outcome of growth shifting demand toward higher-quality products.

Paper title: **Dealing with Fiscal Stress: Cities versus Suburbs**

Presenter: [Annie Yu-Hsin Hsu](#) (University of Houston)

Abstract (limit to 150 words or less): I base on Feler and Senses(2017) to explore how changes in the local economic environment affect the provision of public goods by local governments through two approaches to shocks: import shocks from China and changes in manufacturing industry in United States. I find that aggregation affects the Feler and Senses's results in two critical dimensions. Governments in the largest 100 commuting zones responded differently than those in the smaller 622 commuting zones, presumably because of Tiebout competition between cities and comparable competitive suburbs. Further, I find that central cities in the largest 100 commuting zones respond to this decline by reducing their investment spending, preparing for further economic decline. The suburbs, in contrast, appear to recognize that the reduction is temporary, as the continued decentralization of large urban areas suggests a suburban recovery from the temporary decline. I also show that the Bartik-type instrument works very similar to the China shock from Feler and Senses(2017), which allows extension of the results to alternative time periods.

Paper title: **Dynamic Monitoring Design**

Presenter: [Yu Fu Wong](#) (Columbia University)

Abstract: This paper studies a dynamic moral hazard problem where the principal designs both the monitoring protocol and contingent contract in order to provide optimal incentives. The optimal monitoring follows a Poisson process and the optimal contract features minimal history dependence and decreasing turnover. To incentivize persistent effort, the principal monitors with Poisson bad news that leads to termination. Absent the bad news arrival, the Poisson monitoring is non-stationary with arrivals becoming more informative but less frequent over time. When the contract is not restricted to incentivize persistent effort, the principal first monitors with Poisson bad news that leads to termination, and then switches to a stationary two-sided Poisson monitoring where bad news leads to termination and good news leads to tenure.

Paper title: **The Impact of Home Pregnancy Testing on Fertility and Women's Later-Life Outcomes**

Presenter: [Chien-Tzu Cheng](#) (Brown University)

Abstract: Home pregnancy tests became available in US drugstores in 1977. Using county-level drugstore accessibility to approximate test availability, I examine its impacts on fertility rates, early prenatal care, and female later life outcomes. Using an event-study design, I document significant trend breaks in fertility rates after 1977 among women who had access to drugstores, with the strongest effects for those aged 15-29. The changes in fertility are concentrated among those with access to abortion services. By delaying childbirth, the likelihood of obtaining college degrees and participating in the labor market increased among women in areas with access to abortion providers and drugstores.