### Job Market Paper

"Beyond Test Scores: Does Public Information about School Satisfaction and Violence Levels Affect Parental School Choice?"

Amid the proliferation of school choice policies, substantial disparities persist in the quality of schools selected by high and low socioeconomic-status (SES) families. Can we decrease this gap by providing parents with better information, and if so, what information is effective at inducing parents to select better schools? To address these questions, I leverage a unique natural experiment in Israel, where a Supreme Court ruling mandated the public release of comprehensive school-level information. Employing a discrete choice model, an event study design, and a difference-in-difference approach, I examine the impact of this information disclosure on student school choice. I find that in regions with multiple school options, following the information disclosure, parents increasingly favor schools with better attributes. Notably, this shift is primarily attributed to factors such as violence levels and students’ school satisfaction ratings, rather than test score information. Importantly, I find that the effect is driven by the increased response of lower SES households to the non-score-related attributes, narrowing the preexisting selection gap from their high SES counterparts. Crucially, I establish a robust association between school violence levels and school value-added measures, and find that lower SES households were more likely to select schools with higher value added following the information disclosure. Furthermore, I identify information-sharing networks, based on shared ethnic and cultural ties, influencing school choices. My findings demonstrate the importance of providing a diverse set of school attribute information to enhance equity, academic outcomes and social mobility.
"Effects and Mechanisms of CEO Quality in Public Education"

CEOs’ of public schools in many countries have authority and responsibilities that can greatly affect the quality of schooling. This paper estimates the impact of CEOs on student outcomes in Israeli elementary schools. We estimate CEO quality in two ways—once using schools that do not switch CEOs and once using schools that do. We show that switches are exogenous and are not correlated with potential outcomes. CEO quality positively affects students’ test scores and behavioural outcomes, with pronounced effects for disadvantaged schools. Potential mechanisms show that high-quality CEOs lead to improvements in school priorities, working procedures and violence reduction.

"Does Remedial Education at Late Childhood Pay Off After All? Long-Run Consequences for University Schooling, Labor Market Outcomes and Intergenerational Mobility"

We analyze the long-term effects of a high school remedial education program almost two decades after its implementation. Treated students experienced an 11% increase in completed years of postsecondary schooling, a 4% increase in annual earnings, and a significant increase in intergenerational income mobility. These gains reflect improvement of students mainly from below-median-income families. We conclude that the program had gains beyond the short-term significant improvements in high school matriculation exams. A cost-benefit analysis of the program suggests that the government will recover its cost within 7–8 years, implying a very high rate of return.

"Heads Up: Does Air Pollution Cause Workplace Accidents?"

Extensive literature underscores the detrimental impact of air pollution on both short-term physiological health and long-term cognitive performance, which can lead to adverse labor market outcomes. This study delves into the consequences of heightened nitrogen dioxide (NO$_2$), a prominent air pollutant, on accident occurrence at construction sites—a critical factor in labor market productivity losses. Leveraging comprehensive data encompassing all construction sites and pollution monitoring stations in Israel, our findings unveil a strong relationship between air pollution and accidents. Primarily driven by very high NO$_2$ levels, the likelihood of accidents nearly quadruples when NO$_2$ levels breach the Environmental Protection Agency’s "unhealthy" threshold (99th percentile) compared to "clean" levels. We support the causal inference of our results through instrumental variable analyses and harnessing random wind direction variations. In addition, we conduct a cost-benefit analysis to assess the viability of a proposed welfare-enhancing policy, which recommends subsidizing the closure of construction sites during highly polluted days.

Press Coverage: LSE Business Review, Ynet(Hebrew)
Recent Surveys have documented raising rates of dissatisfaction with democracy in the developed world. I examine the role of the increased trade with non-democratic regimes, notably China, on shaping attitudes toward alternative institutional structures. Utilizing industry-specific regional historical employment data and EU-China trade and FDI data, I apply a ‘China Shock’ shift-share instrument to estimate the effect. Analyzing time-series data from the European Values Survey, I assess shifts in attitudes toward three democracy concepts: explicit, implicit, and operational. Findings reveal that regions exposed to higher imports from China saw declines in implicit and operational attitudes but a slight increase in explicit attitudes. Results are robust to controlling for general regional shocks in economic trade and FDI and to the inclusion of changes in unemployment and poverty rates, suggesting that the effect is not driven solely by a negative economic shock.
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