

MIT Economics

RAYMOND HAN

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

MIT Department of Economics
77 Massachusetts Avenue, E52-580
Cambridge, MA 02139
rwhan@mit.edu
<https://economics.mit.edu/people/phd-students/raymond-han>

HOME CONTACT INFORMATION

500 Memorial Dr
Cambridge, MA 02139
Mobile: 574-210-9864

MIT PLACEMENT OFFICER

Professor David Autor
dautor@mit.edu
617-253-4669

MIT PLACEMENT ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs. Shannon Robinson
shmay@mit.edu
617-324-5857

DOCTORAL STUDIES

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
PhD, Economics, Expected completion June 2026
DISSERTATION: "Essays in Education Economics"

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE AND REFERENCES

Joshua Angrist MIT Department of Economics 77 Massachusetts Avenue, E52-436 Cambridge, MA 02139 617-253-8909 angrist@mit.edu	Parag Pathak MIT Department of Economics 77 Massachusetts Avenue, E52-426 Cambridge, MA 02139 617-253-7458 ppathak@mit.edu
--	--

Dave Donaldson MIT Department of Economics 77 Massachusetts Avenue, E52-552 Cambridge, MA 02139 617-258-6242 ddonald@mit.edu
--

PRIOR EDUCATION	University of Chicago B.A. Economics, B.S. Mathematics	2018
------------------------	---	------

CITIZENSHIP	USA	GENDER Male
--------------------	-----	--------------------

FIELDS	Primary Fields: Labor Economics Secondary Fields: Economics of Education, Health Economics, Urban Economics
---------------	--

TEACHING EXPERIENCE	14.32/320 Econometric Data Science (Undergraduate/Masters) Teaching Assistant to Professor Josh Angrist	2022
----------------------------	--	------

RELEVANT POSITIONS	Research Assistant to Professor Simon Jäger	2021
---------------------------	---	------

MIT Economics

RAYMOND HAN
OCTOBER 2025—PAGE 2

	Pre-doctoral Research Fellow to Professors Joshua Angrist and Parag Pathak	2018-2020
	Research Assistant to Professor Leonardo Bursztyn	2016-2018
FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS	William T. Grant Foundation Grant (\$537,914, co-PI) Amazon Evaluating Scholarship Impacts Gift (\$100,000, co-PI) MIT Integrated Learning Initiative Grant (\$50,000, PI) National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship David S. Hu Undergraduate Thesis Award in Economics	2023 2023 2022 2020-2025 2018
PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES	Referee: Journal of the European Economic Association Service: MIT Graduate Resident Assistant MIT Economics Labor Tea Organizer	2024-2025 2020-2021
RESEARCH PAPERS	“Equilibrium Effects of Neighborhood Schools” (Job Market Paper) (with Clemence Idoux)	Many public school districts allow families to enroll in schools outside their neighborhood. At the cost of higher transportation spending, choice programs aim to decouple educational opportunity from residential geography. This paper evaluates the impact of a return to neighborhood-based assignment following Seattle’s re-introduction of neighborhood schools in 2010. We quantify the aggregate and distributional consequences of neighborhood assignment using an equilibrium model of joint residential and enrollment choices. Residential relocation responses limit the welfare costs of neighborhood assignment, reducing aggregate losses by roughly half. Lower housing costs fully offset welfare losses from restricted choice for low-income renters. Neighborhood assignment does not increase racial segregation or reduce the quality of schools attended by low-income families.
RESEARCH IN PROGRESS	“Medical Training and Geographic Disparities in Physician Supply” (with Dean Li)	Geographic disparities in physician supply have significant implications for healthcare access, with rural regions facing particularly severe shortages. A key friction is that residency location anchors doctors in space: nearly one-quarter of residents take jobs within ten miles of their training hospital, and almost three-fifths remain in the same state. Yet the mechanisms underlying this inertia remain poorly understood. We use job search data and large-scale preference surveys from a major physician recruitment platform to decompose geographic anchoring among newly graduating residents into preferences, search frictions, and moving costs. Understanding these mechanisms is policy-relevant because Medicare GME payments shape the geographic distribution of residency slots. Our framework enables counterfactual evaluation of alternative funding designs for reducing physician shortages in underserved areas.

MIT Economics

RAYMOND HAN
OCTOBER 2025—PAGE 3

“The Cost of Choice: Public School Choice and Segregation”

Public school choice policies are often promoted as tools for integration, yet their effects on segregation are strongly debated. This project combines theory and evidence to show that choice can deepen segregation even when families prefer the same schools. Using a stylized model of residential and school choice I show that when attending a non-neighborhood school carries a cost, choice can exacerbate segregation despite uniform preferences. I corroborate this prediction using administrative student data on applications and enrollments from Seattle and New York City. In both cities, white and Asian families disproportionately opt out of neighborhood schools in areas zoned to predominantly minority schools. Counterfactual analysis suggests that a return to neighborhood assignment would integrate elementary schools in both cities. Leveraging variation across New York City's 32 community school districts, I demonstrate that the effect of choice on segregation turns on the spatial configuration of residential segregation: choice integrates schools only in districts where minority and majority households live in close geographic proximity.

“Private Scholarships: Access and Impact”

(with Joshua Angrist, Maggie Liu, Jack Mountjoy, and Andrew Whitten)

Private scholarship programs are a substantial source of college financial aid, but the impacts of these programs have not been rigorously evaluated. This project evaluates the impacts of over 100 unique programs that collectively awarded a total of over a quarter of a billion dollars through Scholarship America, the nation's largest distributor of private scholarships. To identify causal impacts, we leverage detailed data on scholarship applications and qualification cutoffs used by Scholarship America to assign awards to applicants. By linking applicants to administrative data on college enrollments and tax returns, this work will provide the first large-scale causal evidence on whether private scholarships effectively expand college opportunity and economic mobility.