

CFPR LUNCHTIME SEMINAR SERIES 2018

# **AIR POLLUTION, STUDENT HEALTH, AND SCHOOL ABSENCES: EVIDENCE FROM CHINA**

Little is known about the impact of air pollution on school children in developing countries. This paper aims to fill this gap by quantifying the causal effect of air pollution on the health status and the school attendance of the Chinese students. We relate the arguably exogenous daily variation in air pollution---instrumented by the occurrence of temperature inversion---with student illnesses and absences from more than 3,000 schools in Guangzhou City. We find a sizable deleterious effect of air pollution on school attendance through the health channel. The impact persists for at least four days and displays a monotonically increasing pattern. Notably, this harmful effect is non-negligible even when pollution levels are below the official standard for air quality in China, suggesting that the current ambient air quality standards in China are not low enough to protect students.

I am a 5th year PhD candidate in the Department of Economics at University of Singapore (expected to graduate in 2019). My primary field lies in applied economics. My research focuses on using modern empirical methods to answer questions related to health, gender gap, and economics of awards.



**CHAIRER BY: DR MU ZHENG, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE**

**DATE: 28 SEP 2018 | TIME: 12.00 NN - 1.30PM | VENUE: VENTUS EVANS ROOM**

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