

COLLOQUIUM BY JIE-SHENG TAN-SOO

FLIGHTS TO SAFETY: EVIDENCE OF CHINESE RESIDENTS FLEEING AIR POLLUTION VIA AIR TRAVELS

TIME: 5:00-6:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, 7 NOV 2018

VENUE: ACADEMIC BUILDING 1079

Flights to safety: Evidence of Chinese Residents Fleeing Air Pollution via Air Travels

Speaker: Dr. Jie-Sheng Tan-Soo, Assistant Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

ABSTRACT:

In the absence of sufficient regulations against environmental pollution, citizens will take on averting strategies to protect themselves from exposure to pollution. In this study, we utilize a complete dataset of flights information from Beijing international airport for the period 2008 to 2010 to assess the relationship between air quality differential and travel movements from one city to another. After controlling for the endogenous nature of air quality, we find that a one-unit difference in air quality between two cities will lead to a 0.3% increase in flight passengers travels toward to cleaner city. Our results are robust to multiple checks and falsification tests, and additional analysis revealed heterogeneous responses along spatial and temporal dimensions. We also found evidence of non-linear impacts as air quality-difference increases. Lastly, we translate our baseline findings into a marginal willingness-to-pay of 10.5 CNY/person/year for improvement in air pollution index.

BIO:

Jie-Sheng Tan-Soo is an Assistant Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. He received his PhD in Environmental Policy from the Nicholas School of the Environment and Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University in 2015. His research interests are broadly in

the intersection of environment, health, and development. Some of the topics he has worked on are indoor air pollution from usage of biomass fuels and inefficient stoves, industrial pollution in China, air quality valuation, impact evaluation of water and sanitation interventions, ecosystem services provided by tropical forests. While the topics are interdisciplinary, he mainly uses microeconometrics techniques in combination with economic modelling to conduct empirical research.

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