

COLLOQUIUM BY SHIHE FU

RUNNING WITH A MASK? THE EFFECT OF AIR POLLUTION ON MARATHON RUNNERS' PERFORMANCE

TIME: 1:30-2:30 PM, MONDAY, 1 AUG 2016

VENUE: AB 1079

Running with a Mask? The Effect of Air Pollution on Marathon Runners' Performance

Speaker: Shihe Fu, Professor, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics

ABSTRACT:

Using a sample of over 0.3 million marathon runners in 37 cities and 55 races in China in 2014 and 2015, we estimate that a 1% increase in air pollution (measured by air quality index) increases a runner's finish time by 0.037%. Our causal identification comes from the exogeneity of air pollution on the race day because runners are required to register a few months in advance and we control for city fixed effects, seasonal effects, and weather condition on the race day. Including individual fixed effects also provides consistent evidence. Our study contributes to the scarce literature on the effect of air pollution on short-run productivity, particularly on the performance of athletes who engage outdoor sports.

BIO:

Shihe Fu received his Ph.D. degree in Economics from Boston College in 2005 and is currently a professor at the Research Institute of Economics and Management, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, China. His research area is urban economics focusing on urban housing markets, labor markets and urban environmental issues. His publications appear in refereed journals such as *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, and *Journal of Regional Science*. His email address is fush@swufe.edu.cn.