



*“The Universal Provision of Primary Education: Who Benefits?”*

(in English)



**Dr. Dongshu OU**

Assistant Professor

Department of Educational Administration and Policy

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

**Abstract:**

Compulsory education policy has been widely used by economists to estimate the causal impacts of education on various outcomes. However, few have investigated the spillover effects of compulsory education on children’s siblings within a family. Using a regression discontinuity method and Hong Kong Census Data, I found that Hong Kong’s 1971 policy on free, compulsory primary education not only reduced the individuals’ probability of early dropout but also for their oldest brother and sister. The impacts were larger for children in low-income families. Further, having younger brothers who benefited from free compulsory primary education did not seem to affect the oldest child’s educational attainment. However, having younger sisters who benefited from the compulsory education policy increased the educational attainment for the oldest child in the family, especially for the oldest sister.

**Date:** 23 April 2012(Monday)

**Time:** 4:30pm – 6:00pm

**Venue:** SO322, Dorothy Y. L. Wong Building

**Biography:**

Dr. Dongshu Ou is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Educational Administration and Policy, the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). Her research focuses on the economics of education and policy evaluation. She has examined the impact of the U.S. high school exit exams on student academic outcomes. Her current funded projects include the education and labor market outcomes of China's internal migrants, the economic assimilation of recent Chinese immigrants in Hong Kong, and returns to skills in Hong Kong’s labor market. Prior to joining the CUHK, she was a Research Economist at the Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics. She received a Ph.D. in Economics and Education from Columbia University in 2009.