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Philippine Center for
Economic Development

present a seminar on

What Explains the Rise of For-Profit Universities? Evidence from Dental Assistant Programs

by

Dr. Xing Xia

Yale – National University of Singapore

30 September, Friday

4:00-5:00 p.m. – Room 303

Abstract:

This paper investigates whether for-profit and public community colleges respond differently to increases in demand for occupational education. I exploit a regulatory change, which broadened the scope of practice for dental assistants (DAs) and led to significant increases in DAs' wages and employment. In response to this change, for-profit universities substantially expanded their DA programs, whereas most community college DA programs maintained their existing size. Moreover, community colleges that charged a high premium for the DA program expanded their DA programs, whereas those that did not charge a premium downsized their DA programs. These results are consistent with a for-profit sector that maximizes profits and a public sector that sets capacity to balance its budget

About the speaker:

Dr Xing Xia is currently Assistant Professor of Economics at Yale-NUS College in Singapore. She is an applied-micro economist. Her primary research focus is on educational institutions and the labor market. She uses empirical microeconomic methods to study how the changing demand of the labor market influences the structure of the higher education market and how education institutions in return influence the labor market outcomes of college attendees. Currently, her research focuses on the financing and expansion of higher education institutions in the US as well as education and public finance issues in East and Southeast Asia.



She holds a B.A. in Economics and a B.S. in Mathematics from Wuhan University, and a Ph.D. in Economics from Columbia University.

Free and open to the public

For group attendance, please contact Ms. Gloria Lambino, UPSE Economics Research Center
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