

OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

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Ostrom Workshop Visiting Scholar*

“College Location and STEM Graduate Labor Market Experiences”

Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 19, 2018

12:00–1:00 PM • Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



This study examines the relationship between place and the career experiences of STEM college graduates in the U.S. over the 2000–2010 decade. Findings show that individual factors are most important in determining their labor market outcomes. After controlling for individual and college-level characteristics, geographic factors, mainly the college area’s STEM employment concentration and proximity to STEM clusters, are significantly related to STEM graduates’ job earnings, unemployment, and underemployment. Women and Blacks are considerably more disadvantaged when compared to their male and White counterparts; however, gender and racial disparities significantly decrease when the college location STEM concentration increases. Through a multi-scalar research design, this study bridges the scholarship in STEM education, labor market studies, and regional development; it also provides insights on how race, gender, and place interact in shaping STEM education outcomes. The findings have significant implications for policy and practices.



[Qingfang Wang](#) is a professor of public policy at UC Riverside. Her research interests lie broadly in inequality related to minority population (immigrant, racial minority, and women) and their communities. Her long-term research on minority entrepreneurship examines how different places, which are bounded with formal and informal institutions, have been shaping and reshaped by entrepreneurship activities. Her other studies include the role of university in regional development and transnational migration between the U.S. and China.

Presentations are open to the public (see our website for papers). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855–3151).