Illinois Wesleyan University
Digital Commons @ IWU

John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference

2012, 23rd Annual JWP Conference

Apr 14th, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Economic Assimilation of Chinese Immigrants in the United States: Is There Wage Convergence With Natives?

Yujie (Eunis) Wu '12
Illinois Wesleyan University

Michael Seeborg, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc

Yujie (Eunis) Wu '12 and Michael Seeborg, Faculty Advisor, "Economic Assimilation of Chinese Immigrants in the United States: Is There Wage Convergence With Natives?" (April 14, 2012). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference.* Paper 4.
http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2012/oralpres9/4

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.
©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Oral Presentation O9.4

ECONOMIC ASSIMILATION OF CHINESE IMMIGRANTS IN THE UNITED STATES: IS THERE WAGE CONVERGENCE WITH NATIVES?

Yujie (Eunis) Wu and Michael Seeborg*
Economics Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Asian Americans are usually referred to as the "model minority" due to perceptions of their high income and educational attainment; yet relatively little is known about their economic assimilation experience. The purpose of this study is to determine economic assimilation of Chinese immigrants over time. This research follows a cohort of Chinese immigrants from 1994 to 2011 and compares their earnings performance with natives that have similar educational attainment. Multiple regression analysis is used to analyze data from the Current Population Survey. Results show that, although the cohort of Chinese immigrants initially has earnings substantially lower than the natives, it is only about 10 years before they reach income parity. By 2011 Chinese immigrants' earnings exceed natives' by about 4 percent. The study concludes that despite the language and adjustment challenges, Chinese immigrants do show relatively rapid economic assimilation in the United States.