

## Rebel with(out) a cause? Inter-generational smoking dependence in Chinese households\*

Ricardo Gonçalves<sup>†</sup>

Católica Porto Business School and CECE, Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Peter Simmons<sup>‡</sup>

Department of Economics, University of York

Yuanyuan Xie<sup>§</sup>

College of Business and Economics, California State University, East Bay

December 2017

### Abstract

This paper examines inter-generational (parent-child) dependence and intra-personal smoking persistence within Chinese households. A dynamic bivariate probit specification is estimated using data from the Chinese Health and Nutrition Panel Survey (CHNS). Our results (unsurprisingly) show that, for both parents and children, individual past smoking behaviour increases the risk of smoking today; however, past smoking by the parent (child) reduces the likelihood of a child (parent) smoking today - to the best of our knowledge, a novel inter-generational effect in the literature. Importantly, these results have relevant implications in the design and implementation of policies aimed at reducing smoking prevalence.

JEL Classification: D1, I12, I18

Keywords: smoking, inter-generational effects, dynamic probit, anti-smoking policies.

---

\*Financial support from Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (through project UID/GES/00731/2013) is gratefully acknowledged. We would like to thank seminar participants at York, as well as the discussant and participants in the 91st Western Economic Association International (WEAI) Annual Conference (2016), Portland, for their helpful comments and suggestions.

<sup>†</sup>Católica Porto Business School, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Rua Diogo Botelho, 1327, 4169-005 Porto, Portugal. E-mail: rgoncalves@porto.ucp.pt.

<sup>‡</sup>Department of Economics, University of York, Heslington, York YO10 5DD, United Kingdom. E-mail: peter.simmons@york.ac.uk.

<sup>§</sup>College of Business and Economics, California State University - East Bay, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd, Hayward, CA 94542, USA. E-mail: yuanyuan.legrand@csueastbay.edu.