



# **Title: An Economic Analysis of Tiger Parenting: Evidence from Child Developmental Delay or Learning Disability**

By Andy Chung, Yanyan Xiong, and Junsen Zhang

Discussion Paper No. 2022-05

Department of Economics, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading, RG6 6EL, UK

<https://www.reading.ac.uk/economics/>

## **Non-Technical Summary**

- While the media and public often focus on its cultural implications and effectiveness in child-bearing, and economics literature focuses on the choice of parenting style with respect to economic conditions, this article takes a step further and examines the operation of parenting style by studying the economic implications related to a common method used by “tiger parents” in parenting their children: punishment.
- We develop a simple economic analysis on a common instrument of “tiger parents” in parenting or authoritarian parenting style, punishing their children, in the context of human capital investment.
- This study attempts to consider the productivity of the children’s effort in their human capital investment in analysing parenting behaviour. We argue that this productivity would determine the return of punishing the child and affects the parent’s action.
- We argue that if parents employ punishment as an instrument to discipline their children to exert more effort in their human capital investment, the possibility of punishment should be increasing in children’s capability.
- We test this hypothesis by investigating the effect of children’s developmental delay or learning disabilities on the likelihood of parents punishing their children in case their academic results are below expectations, and find supportive evidence.
- We test the negative effect of parent’s education level on the likelihood of punishment, which is indirectly predicted by Doepke and Zilibotti (2017).
- We test whether parents are kinder to children with developmental delay.

You can read the full paper [here](#).