

Zeyu Li (Peter)

Born: June 29, 1994 ◊ Citizenship: China

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, University of California, Irvine

Expected June, 2025

M.S., Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2017 - 2019

B.A., Economics, Central University of Finance and Economics

2013 - 2017

RESEARCH FIELDS

Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Urban Economics, Economics of Education

JOB MARKET PAPER

“Global Roommates, Local Outcomes: How Foreign Peers Influence Domestic Students in Higher Education”

PUBLICATION

“Too Much of a Good Thing? How Narrow Targeting and Policy Interactions Influence Responses to California’s EITC”
(with David Neumark), Forthcoming at *Tax Policy and the Economy*

Media Coverage: *The New York Times*

Despite California offering the highest state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) supplement at 85% of the federal rate, our study finds no employment effect on less-skilled single mothers. This contrasts with the positive employment effects observed from other state EITC supplements and the federal EITC. We identify two key factors: California’s EITC phases out rapidly at lower income levels without a “plateau”, leading to higher marginal tax rates at lower incomes; and the state’s high minimum wage interacts with the EITC structure, reducing incentives for low-wage workers to increase work hours, as they gain little additional income from doing so.

WORKING PAPERS

“Building Up and Boosting Productivity: Evidence from the Daylight Spacing Regulation in China” *SSRN Working Paper*
[Art DeVany Prize for Best Graduate Poster Presentation, 2023]

I estimate the causal impact of urban density on productivity using a policy-implied spacing factor from China’s building spacing regulations as an instrument. Results show that a 40% increase in population density raises wages, with significant benefits for the service sector and innovation.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“The Effect of Housing Wealth on Private School Enrollment”

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UC Irvine

Research Assistant to David Neumark

2022 - present

- Co-authored a paper evaluating the employment impact of California’s Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), applying causal inference techniques such as the synthetic control method (SCM) and staggered and stacked difference-in-differences (DID), leveraging extensive survey datasets.
- Enhanced the DID model with insufficient number of clusters by simulating and recalculating clustered standard errors using the Wild Bootstrap Randomization Inference (WBRI) method.

- Compared and analyzed multiple nationwide establishment-level business datasets to capture the relocation dynamics of businesses and employment, applying advanced statistical and econometric methods such as the Dyadic analysis for inference.

Research Assistant to Damon Clark

2022

- Assisted in large-scale study on factors influencing K-12 school choice, leveraging administrative data from the San Francisco Unified School District and survey data on parents, utilizing discrete choice models (DCM) and value-added models (VAM) to examine parental school choices, preferences, and perceptions regarding various school characteristics.
- Employed Git for version control and collaborative coding, ensuring efficient project management and code integration.

Research Assistant to Nancy Rodríguez

2021 - 2022

- Conducted in-depth analysis of prisoner violence across the U.S. by aggregating and processing large datasets from multiple state Departments of Corrections, with a specific focus on patterns of prison misconduct.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- *Graduate Teaching Assistant* [DTEI Fellowship for Teaching Excellency] 2019 - 2023
- Introductory-Level Courses: Probability and Statistics in Economics, Basic Economics, Global Economy
- Intermediate-Level Courses: Intermediate Microeconomics, Intermediate Macroeconomics, Quantitative Microeconomics II, Applied Econometrics I-II

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

2024: The Econometric Society European Winter Meeting (*upcoming*), Western Economic Association Annual Conference, All-California Labor Economics Conference (UCLA), Public Policy Institute of California, CSU Long Beach, Southern California Graduate Conference in Applied Economics, Applied Young Economists Webminar

2023: Urban Economics Association Summer School, UCI Miniconference in Urban Economics, UCI Applied Micro Workshop, UCI Graduate Poster Session

2022: UCI Applied Micro Workshop, UCI Graduate Poster Session

2021: UCI Graduate Poster Session

HONORS

Graduate Completion Fellowship, UC Irvine (2024)

Art DeVany Prize for Best Graduate Poster Presentation, UC Irvine (2023)

Summer Research Fellowship, UC Irvine (2021-2024)

DTEI Fellowship for Teaching Excellency, UC Irvine (2020)

Best Master's Research Papers, UW-Madison (2019)

Graduate Research Scholarship, UW-Madison (2018)

SKILLS

Programming	R, Stata, Python, MATLAB, SQL
Tools	GitHub, ArcGIS, LaTeX, Markdown, Microsoft Office

REFERENCES

Damon Clark (Co-chair)

Associate Professor of Economics
University of California, Irvine
949-824-2056
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David Neumark (Co-chair)

Distinguished Professor of Economics
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Jan Brueckner

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