

## Zeyu Li (Peter)

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### EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, University of California, Irvine	<i>Expected June, 2025</i>
M.S., Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison	<i>2017 - 2019</i>
B.A., Economics, Central University of Finance and Economics	<i>2013 - 2017</i>

### 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 (*upcoming*)

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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