

# ZHENG Rui CHENG

617-669-7091 | [zc156@georgetown.edu](mailto:zc156@georgetown.edu) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Personal Website](#) | [X/Twitter](#)

Washington, DC

## EDUCATION

- **Georgetown University** Expected 2027  
*PhD in Economics* Washington, DC
  - Recipient of Graduate Scholarship
- **University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy** June 2021  
*Master of Arts in Public Policy, Certificates in Research Methods & Financial Policy* Chicago, IL
  - Recipient of Harris Merit Scholarship
- **Carnegie Mellon University** May 2019  
*Bachelor of Arts, Behavioral Economics, Policy and Organization* Pittsburgh, PA
  - Minor in International Relations and Politics, and Economics
  - Graduated with University Honors; Member of Omicron Delta Epsilon Honor Society

## PUBLICATIONS

- Cheng, Zhengrui, Xiang Ding, and Marc Auboin. (2025). "Foreign Direct Investment and Trade Finance and Global Value Chain Integration." In *Global Value Chain Development Report 2025: Rewiring GVCs in a Changing Global Economy* (Chapter 6). World Trade Organization (WTO). [\[PDF\]](#).

## SELECTED RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- Cheng, Zhengrui. (2025). *Going Overseas: FDI Decisions and Supply Chain Integration*. Working paper, Georgetown University.
  - Advisors: Nathan Miller and Xiang Ding
  - Selected for presentation at the AEA Annual Meetings, Philadelphia, 2026.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **University of Chicago & U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission** Mar 2021 - May 2021  
*Research Apprentice under Prof. Justin Marlowe and SEC* Chicago, IL
  - Conducted literature review on climate-change-related risk disclosure mechanisms for treasury and corporate bonds
  - Identified key disclosure aspects and evaluated overall impacts for climate-risk reporting
  - Developed a new framework of climate change disclosure specifically for municipal bonds
  - Presented results to the Office of Municipal Securities at the U.S. SEC
- **University of Chicago** Mar 2020 - Apr 2021  
*Research Apprentice under Prof. Christopher Berry* Chicago, IL
  - Researched the relationship between political connectedness and property taxes
  - Constructed a political connection index using data on public positions and political campaign contributions
  - Linked multiple administrative datasets with advanced statistical record-linking methods
  - Analyzed tax-avoidance dynamics using network analysis and Hamiltonian Monte Carlo algorithms
- **Carnegie Mellon University and Deloitte Consulting** Jan 2019 - May 2019  
*Behavioral Economics Capstone Project* Pittsburgh, PA
  - Led a 5-person team to design a guidebook for incorporating new technology in Deloitte using established behavioral interventions
  - Developed the "Intertemporal Choice" and "Status Quo Bias" frameworks for the behavioral toolbox
  - Designed a survey for within-firm data collection and pre-intervention analysis

- Presented findings to senior management, including Deloitte's Chief Data Scientist

- **Harvard University, Department of Economics**

*Research Assistant*

*Jul 2018 - Aug 2018*

Cambridge, MA

- Updated regression data for "Reshaping Global Trade: The Long-Term Effects of Bank Failures"
- Corrected anomalies in historical population datasets to improve cross-sectional regressions
- Attended the World Economic History Congress, engaging with scholars such as Thomas Piketty

- **Carnegie Mellon Univ., Center for Behavioral & Decision Research**

*Research Assistant under Prof. George Loewenstein*

*Jul 2017 - Aug 2017*

Pittsburgh, PA

- Funded by a Summer Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship
- Conducted literature review on stimulative messages/graphics and their psychological impacts
- Designed lab consent forms, collected and cleansed experimental data

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

- **Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority**

*Research Intern, Strategic Initiative Department*

*Jan 2018 - May 2018*

Washington, DC

- Updated Python data-processing applications for monthly Strategic Initiative reports
- Analyzed track-data to improve maintenance efficiency across WMATA
- Produced a final report on past WMATA incidents, read by the COO
- Assisted in organizing director-level events (agenda design, invitations)

- **United States Congress, House of Representatives**

*Intern, Office of Congressman Danny K. Davis*

*May 2017 - Jul 2017*

Washington, DC

- Drafted letters on tax reforms, poverty/welfare, reverse mortgages, and infrastructure
- Communicated with constituents and summarized concerns for the Congressman
- Attended hearings/briefings on behalf of the office; prepared memos for the Congressman
- Researched job opportunities for youth in foster care and evaluated impacts of extending H.R. 5737

## SKILLS

---

- **Software & Programming:** Python, R, STATA, MINITAB,  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , Stan