

# ZHENGRI CHENG

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Washington, DC

## EDUCATION

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

## PUBLICATIONS

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- 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

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- 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

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- **University of Chicago & U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission** Mar 2021 - May 2021  
Chicago, IL  
*Research Apprentice under Prof. Justin Marlowe and SEC*
  - 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  
Chicago, IL  
*Research Apprentice under Prof. Christopher Berry*
  - 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  
Pittsburgh, PA  
*Behavioral Economics Capstone Project*
  - 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** *Jul 2018 - Aug 2018*  
Cambridge, MA
- Research Assistant*
- 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** *Jul 2017 - Aug 2017*  
Pittsburgh, PA
- Research Assistant under Prof. George Loewenstein*
- 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

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority** *Jan 2018 - May 2018*  
Washington, DC
- Research Intern, Strategic Initiative Department*
- 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** *May 2017 - Jul 2017*  
Washington, DC
- Intern, Office of Congressman Danny K. Davis*
- 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

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## SKILLS

- **Software & Programming:** Python, R, STATA, MINITAB, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Stan