

LELE ZHAO

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics

Expected May 2026

Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

Dissertation: “Essays on Policy-Induced Behavioral Change in Education and Health in China”

Committee: Katy Bergstrom (Chair), Stefano Barbieri, Kevin Callison, Elliott Isaac

M.A. in Economics

2021

Central University of Finance and Economics, Beijing, China

B.A. in Economics

2018

Shandong University of Finance and Economics, Jinan, China

FIELDS

Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Education Economics, Health Economics

PUBLICATIONS

Jianmei, Zhao, and **Lele Zhao**. 2022. “Mobile Payment Adoption and the Decline in China’s Household Savings Rate.” *Empirical Economics*, 63: 2513-37.

WORKING PAPERS

“Education as Insurance: Property Division and Women’s Education.”

(*Job Market Paper*)

Abstract: This paper examines the impact of China’s 2011 marriage law reform, which shifted property division from equal sharing to deed-based, on women’s education. Using a two-period model and a continuous difference-in-differences design exploiting provincial variation in male-only deed share, I find that reduced marital surplus increased women’s four-year college enrollment, consistent with education serving as insurance against economic insecurity in marriage markets.

“The Impact of Straw Burning Ban on Children’s Health in China.”

“Does Retirement Improve Health? The Assessment of Retirement on Hospital Readmission in China.” (with Yu Liu and Lu Yao)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“The Impact of Telemedicine on Physicians’ Offline Behavior and Patient Health Outcomes: Evidence from China.” (with Yu Liu and Lu Yao)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Spring 2025

Econ 3250 Stata Lab

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2022 - Fall 2025

Econ 1010 Intro to Microeconomics, Econ 1020 Introduction to Macroeconomics

Econ 3010 Intermediate Microeconomics, Econ 3230 Econometrics, Econ 3340 Government and the Economy

Econ 3370 World Economy, Econ 3420 Economic History of the United States

Econ 4230/6230 Econometrics, Econ 4980 Industrial Organization

RELEVANT POSITIONS

Research Assistant

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Prof. Stefano Barbieri, Tulane University | Fall 2022 - Spring 2023 |
| Prof. Jianmei Zhao, Central University of Finance and Economics | 2019-2021 |
| Prof. Li Yu, Central University of Finance and Economics | 2019 |
| Prof. Lezheng Liu, Central University of Finance and Economics | 2018 |

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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|---|--------------|
| Tulane University Graduate Fellowships | 2021-Present |
| The J.E. Land Fund Award, Tulane University | 2025-2026 |
| Newcomb Institute Student Grant, Tulane University | 2025 |
| Graduate Student Summer Research Award, Tulane University | 2025 |
| Graduate Student Summer Write-Up Award, Tulane University | 2024 |
| Excellent Master's Thesis, Central University of Finance and Economics | 2021 |
| Graduate Academic Scholarship, Central University of Finance and Economics | 2018-2020 |
| Excellent Graduate, Shandong University of Finance and Economics | 2018 |
| First and Second-Class Scholarship, Shandong University of Finance and Economics | 2015 - 2018 |
| National Encourage Scholarship, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China | 2015 |

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

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| American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA (poster) | 2026 |
| American Economic Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA | 2025 |
| 2025 International Symposium on Contemporary Labor Economics, Xiamen, China | 2025 |
| The 25th China Economic Annual Conference, Shanghai, China | 2025 |
| Global Labor Organization (GLO) Job Market Sessions, Online | 2025 |
| Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL | 2025 |
| Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. | 2024 |
| Chinese Economists Society Annual Meeting, Hangzhou, China | 2024 |
| Tulane University Economics Department Lunch Seminar Series, New Orleans, LA | 2023-2025 |

REFERENCES

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Katy Bergstrom (Chair) | Stefano Barbieri | Kevin Callison | Elliott Isaac |
| Assistant Professor | Professor | Associate Professor | Assistant Professor |
| Department of Economics | Department of Economics | Department of Economics | Department of Economics |
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