

LELE ZHAO

✉ lzhao6@tulane.edu ☎ 504-509-0709 🌐 lelezhao-econ.github.io 📍 New Orleans, LA

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)
kbergstrom@tulane.edu
Tulane University

Stefano Barbieri
sbarbier@tulane.edu
Tulane University

Kevin Callison
kcallison@tulane.edu
Tulane University

Elliott Isaac
eisaac@tulane.edu
Tulane University

M.A. in Economics

2021

Central University of Finance and Economics, Beijing, China

B.A. in Economics

2018

Shandong University of Finance and Economics, Shandong, China

FIELDS

Labor and Demographic Economics, Health Economics, Education 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 studies how China’s 2011 divorce law reform, which shifted property division from equal-sharing to deed-based, affected 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 declining marital returns 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 Mean Healthier? The Assessment of Retirement on Hospitalization Costs and Care Quality in China” (with Yu Liu and Lu Yao)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“The Impact of Telemedicine on Physicians’ Online 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 2021 - Fall 2025

Econ 4230/6230 Econometrics, Econ 1010 Intro to Microeconomics
Econ 3010 Intermediate Microeconomics, Econ 3230 Econometrics

Econ 3340 Government and The Economy, 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:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Tulane University Graduate Fellowships | 2021-Present |
| Graduate Student Summer Research Award, Tulane University | 2025 |
| The J.E. Land Fund, Tulane University | 2025 |
| Graduate Student Summer Write-Up Award, Tulane University | 2024 |
| Excellent Master 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

| | |
|---|-----------|
| American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA (poster) | 2026 |
| Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL | 2025 |
| Tulane ECON Lunch Seminar, New Orleans, LA | 2023-2025 |
| American Economic Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA | 2025 |
| Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. | 2024 |
| Chinese Economists Society Annual Meeting, Hangzhou, China | 2024 |

REFERENCES

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Katy Bergstrom (Chair) | Stefano Barbieri | Kevin Callison | Elliott Isaac |
| Assistant Professor | Professor | Associate Professor | Associate Professor |
| Department of Economics | Department of Economics | Department of Economics | Department of Economics |
| Tulane University | Tulane University | Tulane University | Tulane University |
| kbergstrom@tulane.edu | sbarbier@tulane.edu | kcallison@tulane.edu | eisaac@tulane.edu |