

# LIQIANG LIU

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## Education:

Ph.D., Economics, University at Buffalo, SUNY 2018 - 2024 (expected)

Dissertation Title: “*Three Essays in Labor Economics and Health Economics*”

Dissertation Committee: Neel Rao, Zhiqiang Liu, Mingliang Li

Visiting Ph.D. Student, Department of Economics, Boston University 2022 - 2023

B.S., Economics (Magna cum laude), Xi'an Jiaotong University (C9 League), Xi'an, China 2015

## Research Fields:

Primary Fields: Labor Economics, Health Economics

Secondary Fields: Applied Microeconomics, Social Networks

## Job Market Paper:

“Initial Labor Market Conditions, Social Networks and Career Achievements: Evidence from the Economics Discipline”

## Working Paper:

“Beyond Economic Benefits: Early Legal Access to Oral Contraceptives and Women’s Life-Cycle Health Outcomes”

## Papers in Progress:

“Systemic Bias in US Economics Departments: The Role of Homophily” *with Randall Ellis, Changwoo Lee, and Jiarui Wang*

“Surname Initials, Social Capital and Mobility in Academia: Evidence from the Top 50 U.S. Economics Departments”

## Teaching Experience:

Teaching Assistant, University at Buffalo, SUNY 2018 - 2022

- Econometrics (Ph.D. Level) Spring 2021, Spring 2022
- Intro to Microeconomics (Undergraduate Level) Fall 2021
- Labor Economics (Master Level) Fall 2020
- Econometrics (Master Level) Spring 2020
- Microeconomic Theory (Master Level) Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019

## Work Experience:

Procurement Engineer, Shenzhen Union Technology Co., Ltd., Shenzhen, China 2015 - 2017

**Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:**

Graduate Fellowship, Department of Economics, University at Buffalo, SUNY	2018 - 2022
Excellent Student Cadre Award, Xi'an Jiaotong University	2015
First Place in Mathematical Modeling Competition, Xi'an Jiaotong University	2013
Siyuan Scholarship (Merit-based), Xi'an Jiaotong University	2012 - 2014
Outstanding Student Award, Xi'an Jiaotong University	2012

**Skills:**

Programming: STATA, R, Python, LaTeX  
Languages: Chinese (native), English (fluent)

**Visa:**

F-1 Student Visa with 3-year STEM OPT

**References:**

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**“Initial Labor Market Conditions, Social Networks and Career Achievements: Evidence from the Economics Discipline” (Job Market Paper)**

**Abstract:** This paper studies the impacts of initial labor market conditions on young economists' early-career co-authorship networks and academic achievements. The identification leverages the plausibly exogenous variation in labor market conditions at initial entry, instrumented by predicted year of graduation unemployment rates. Utilizing new data collected on U.S. economics PhD candidates from top 10 departments, their co-authorship in the top 5 journals, and NBER affiliation, I find that economists graduating during adverse initial labor market conditions develop larger co-authorship networks and increase research output in their first five years post-graduation, with the difference diminishing afterward. The findings suggest that economists graduating during the Great Recession, who are male and non-US citizens, face reduced probabilities of securing tenure at top-ranked economics departments compared to their non-recession counterparts. Additionally, heterogeneity analysis reveals that the effects of adverse initial labor market conditions primarily affect economists who are white, male, non-US citizens, or graduating from Tier 1 schools. I also explore the mechanisms behind the effects. The results indicate that increased extrinsic motivation may boost early-career social networks and research output, while anticipated tenure and post-doctoral pursuits may partially explain the later impact reversal. Moreover, underperformance in non-research factors may account for reduced tenure prospects at top-ranked economics departments.

**“Beyond Economic Benefits: Early Legal Access to Oral Contraceptives and Women’s Life-Cycle Health Outcomes”**

**Abstract:** This paper investigates the effects of early legal access to oral contraceptives on women’s life-cycle health outcomes (e.g., mortality and self-reported disability) using the plausible quasi-experimental design introduced by Goldin and Katz (2002). The identification leverages the cross-state and cross-cohort variation in state consent laws in the 1950s and the 1960s. Utilizing the difference-in-differences approach, the results suggest that early access to the pill reduces women's mortality rates during their 30s and 40s, and the improvement in health is primarily driven by the decline in mortality rate caused by cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and cerebrovascular disease. Furthermore, I find that women who would have had early pill access are, on average, more likely to have self-reported physical disability during their late 50s and 60s. Additionally, the heterogeneity analysis reveals that non-white women experience greater benefits from early pill access. My analysis identifies four potential mechanisms for observed impacts of early access to the pill: (1) increases in college completion, (2) changes in oral contraceptive-related mortality, (3) changes in health behavior measures, and (4) enhances life expectancy.