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## EDUCATION

University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, NY	2018 - 2024 (expected)
Ph.D. Economics	
Dissertation Title: <i>“Three Essays in Labor Economics and Health Economics”</i>	
Dissertation Committee: <i>Neel Rao, Zhiqiang Liu, Mingliang Li</i>	
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, NY	2018 - 2021
M.A. Econometrics & Quantitative Economics	
Visiting Ph.D. Student, Department of Economics, Boston University, MA	2022 - 2023
Ph.D. Economics	
Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an, China	2011 - 2015
B.S. Economics ( <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> )	

## AREA OF INTERESTS

Research: Applied Microeconomics; Labor Economics; Health Economics; Social Networks

Teaching: Micro & Macro Economics; Labor, Health, Environmental Economics; Econometrics

## JOB MARKET PAPER

[“Initial Labor Market Conditions, Social Networks and Career Achievements: Evidence from the Economics Discipline”](#) October 2023

**Abstract:** This paper studies the impacts of initial labor market conditions on 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 Ph.D. candidates from the 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 more extensive 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. Furthermore, heterogeneity analysis reveals that 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 economics departments as research contributions remain statistically indifferent.

**WORKING PAPER**

“Beyond Economic Benefits: Early Legal Access to Oral Contraceptives and Women’s Life-Cycle Health Outcomes” December 2022

**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 health improvement 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) increases in life expectancy.

**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, The State University of New York, NY

- Environmental Economics (Undergraduate), Microeconomic Theory (Undergraduate) -- Fall 2018, Fall 2019
- Microeconomic Theory (Master), Capital Markets (Undergraduate) -- Spring 2019
- Econometrics (Master), Environmental Economics (Master) -- Spring 2020
- Macroeconomic Theory (Master), Microeconomic Theory (Master) -- Fall 2020
- Econometrics (Ph.D.), Labor Economics (Master) -- Spring 2021
- Mathematics for Economists (Master), Intro to Microeconomics (Undergraduate) -- Fall 2021
- Econometrics (Ph.D.), Intro to Microeconomics (Undergraduate) -- Spring 2022

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

<i>Procurement Engineer</i> , Shenzhen Union Technology Co., Ltd., Shenzhen, China	2015 - 2017
<i>Asset Management Intern</i> , Xi'an Maiké Futures Brokerage Co., Ltd., Xi'an, China	2015

**RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

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|--|-------------|
| • PhD Seminar Series, Department of Economics, University at Buffalo, SUNY | 2020 - 2023 |
| • Applied Micro Workshop, Boston University                                | 2023        |

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

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|---|-------------|
| • Presidential Fellowship & TA Assistantship, 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        |

## SERVICES

- Economics Graduate Student Association, Senator, University at Buffalo, SUNY 2018 - 2019

## SKILLS

- Software: STATA, R, Python, MS Office, LaTeX
- Technical Skills: Regression, Matching, Causal Inference (Instrumental Variables, Difference-in-Differences, Synthetic Control, Regression Discontinuity, Bunching), Experimental Design, Panel Data Models, Machine Learning
- Languages: Chinese (native), English (fluent)

## VISA

F-1 Student Visa with 3-year STEM OPT

## REFERENCES

**Professor Neel Rao** (Chair)  
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