

# SIYUAN LIU

105 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. M5S 3E6  
(+1)437-363-7843  $\diamond$  siyuann.liu@rotman.utoronto.ca

## EDUCATION

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<b>University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada</b> PhD student, Rotman School of Management (Economic Analysis and Policy program)	<b>Aug 2020 - Present</b>
<b>The University of Chicago, Illinois, USA</b> MA in the Social Science, Concentration in Economics <i>Thesis: The impact of infrastructure construction on local economy: Evidence from Dianping.com</i>	<b>Aug 2018 - Aug 2019</b>
<b>Peking University, Beijing, China</b> Bachelor of Economics	<b>Sept 2014 - Jul 2018</b>

## PROFILE

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<b>Causal inference models</b>	DID, IV (Bartik and traditional IV), RDD synthetic control, Heckman two-stages machine learning (LASSO, KNN, PCA)
<b>Structural models</b>	BLP demand estimation, EK, Melitz, spatial equilibrium and sorting
<b>Programming Language</b>	Stata, Python, MATLAB, QGIS, R
<b>Software &amp; Tools</b>	MS Office, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X
<b>Languages</b>	English (proficient), Chinese (native)
<b>Research Interests</b>	Urban economics, real estate economics, industrial organization

## CO-SUPERVISORS

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<b>Nathaniel Baum-Snow</b>	Nate.Baum.Snow@Rotman.Utoronto.Ca
<b>William Strange</b>	William.strange@Rotman.Utoronto.Ca

## WORKING PAPER

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- National Road Upgrading and Structural Transformation: Evidence from Ugandan Households, *with Ian Herzog and Yue Yu*.
  - Presented at 2023 North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, 2024 NBER SI Development Session.
  - This paper studies effects of accessibility to urban centers on peripheral households' uptake of specialized off-farm work. To this end, we combine improvements in domestic market access caused by Uganda's doubling of paved road mileage with individual panel data. Improved market access causes workers to quit family farms and take more specialized paid work. Effects concentrate in peripheral areas, less productive farmers in farming-intensive places, and reflect better non-agricultural opportunities rather than reduced demand for farm output. Findings are consistent with reliable transport connecting people with urban areas, expanding market extent, and increasing returns to specialized off-farm work.
- The Effects of Deregulating Startup Investment, *with Zijun Cheng and Ruichi Xiong*.
  - Presented at 2024 Canadian Economics Association conference, 2024 YES Annual Meeting.
  - This paper estimates the marginal effects and distributional effects of the 2006 reform of the Company Law of China which mandated a sharp drop on the minimum registered capital threshold for firm incorporation. With a difference-in-differences strategy, we show that the reform increased the number of firm entrants in treated industries with reduced threshold. Furthermore, quantile regressions indicate that the reform shifted also the right tail of registered capital distribution of firm entrants to the left.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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- Space and Cyber Space: The Impact of Food Delivery Platform Entry on Retail Real Estate, *Job market paper*
- Why Urban Villages Persist Near the City Center: Evidence from Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, *UofT second-year paper*.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE & PRE-DOCTORAL PUBLICATION

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- Hsieh, CheeRuey, **Siyuan Liu**, and Xuezheng Qin. "The Hidden Costs of Mental Depression: Implications on Social Trust and Life Satisfaction." *The Manchester School* 87.2 (2019): 259-296

### Foreclosure in Connecticut

Jul 2019 - July 2020

*Full-time RA, Advisor: Jose-Antonio Espin-Sanchez, Daniel Keniston*

*Yale Univ.*

- Applied machine learning method to analyze factors affecting auction attendance.
- Applied instrumental variable method to predict number of bidders in an auction.
- Used python to systematically identify foreclosure information from legal documents.

### MA Thesis - The Impact of Infrastructure Construction on Restaurants: Evidence from Dianping Data

Jan 2019 - Aug 2019

*Independent research project, Advisor: Jonathan Dingel*

*The Univ. of Chicago*

### Scaling Agricultural Policy Interventions:

#### Theory and Evidence from Uganda

Jun 2017 - Oct 2017

*Part-time RA, Advisor: Andres Rodriguez-Clare*

*UC Berkeley*

### Depression Hurts, Depression Costs: The Medical Spending Attributable to Depression and Depressive Symptoms in China

Mar 2017 - Jul 2017

*Part-time RA, Advisor: Xuezheng Qin*

*Peking Univ.*

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

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- UofT Rotman TD-MDAL Research Grant (4,300 CAD with Zijun Cheng and Ruichi Xiong)
- University of Toronto Fellowship, 2020 - 2025
- Social Sciences Scholarship of two-thirds tuition, The Univ. of Chicago, 2018
- Outstanding Graduate in Peking University, 2018
- First Grade Qihang Scholarship, 2017
- Excellent Research Award, 2017
- Arawana Scholarship, 2016
- Outstanding Student in Peking University, 2016

## MISCELLANEOUS

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- Chinese national level-2 athlete (breaststroke swimming).
- Teaching experience: teaching assistant for *real estate economics*, *managerial economics*, *inter-mediate macroeconomics*.
- Former online editor for Zhiwu Chen's MOOC program (more than 10 million views).