

YANFEI YIN

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EDUCATION

M.A.,Economics,Nanjing University

09/2022 to present

GPA: 4.6/5 (Rank 9/49)

B.A.,Economics,Nanjing University

09/2018 to 06/2022

GPA: 4.6/5 (Rank 3/55)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Development Economics; Political Economy; Economic History.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

School of Public Health, University of Illinois at Chicago

03/2023 to present

Advisor: Prof. Zhuoer Lin (Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Administration)

Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business

10/2022 to present

Advisor: Prof. Xinyu Fan (Assistant Professor of Economics)

Department of Economics,Fudan University

07/2021 to present

Advisor: Prof. Shuo Chen (Professor of Economics)

Department of Economics,Nanjing University

10/2019 to present

Advisor: Prof. Gang Jin (Associate Professor of Economics)

PUBLICATIONS:

The Synergy Effect of National and Local Pilots: Evidence from the Student Nutrition Improvement Plan (in Chinese) (with Gang Jin), *Journal of World Economy* [世界经济], 2023 (II): 30-53.

Abstract: In this paper, we use cohort difference-in-differences method to identify the impacts of the national and local pilot models of the Chinese Nutrition Improvement Program on the high school enrollment, and then conduct a comparative analysis of the two models. We find that the national and local pilot models have their own advantages and disadvantages and complement each other. The policy effects of the local pilot model are confounded by local fiscal capacity and local officials' preferences. While the national pilot model avoids this shortcoming, it is less cost-effective than local pilots. Therefore, at the city level, a combination of national and local pilots can achieve more significant policy effects than a one-size-fits-all approach that utilizes a single national or local pilot in all counties.

WORKING PAPERS

- 1 **Deluge and Development of Early Human Societies: From the Neolithic to Early States** (with Shuo Chen, and Xinyu Fan), Under Review at *Review of Economics and Statistics*

Abstract: Many early human societies suffered from catastrophic floods during their development. Using the deluge of the Yellow River around 1920 BCE as a natural experiment, we show that the deluge accelerated early societal development, measured by class differentiation, public buildings, the use of bronze, evidence of writing, and early cities. Regarding possible channels, we show that higher soil productivity and increased cooperation post-deluge –rather than increased conflict –jointly contributed to development, with no single force dominating the other. Therefore, the paper highlights multiple interactive contributors to early societal development.

- 2 **Guns and Resources: War Extractions and Governance Paradigm Shifts** (with Shuo Chen, Xinyu Fan, and Yongtao Li), Submitted to *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*

Abstract: How do wars affect the state's choice between direct and indirect governance? Using the 70-year Dzungar-Qing Wars (1688-1758) as an exogenous shock and a difference-in-differences strategy on prefecture-level panel data, we reveal that for the Qing Empire, war-unaaffected regions rich in strategic military resources were more likely to shift from local autonomy to direct governance after the wars broke out. This permanent governance reform was more likely to occur where transportation was more convenient, while resource-rich areas opened more factories during rather than after the wars. Thus, the paper highlights the regional externality in state building during wartime.

- 3 **The Power of Words: Adult Literacy Campaign and Intergenerational Transmission of Human Capital** (with Shuo Chen, Xian Xu, and Zhuoer Lin), Targeted *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*

Abstract: We examine the intergenerational impact of China's 1950s adult literacy campaign, the largest anti-illiteracy effort in history, reaching 150 million people. While direct effects on adult literacy have been criticized, we document significant long-term benefits for the next generation's education. Using an original dataset compiled from county gazetteers and population census, we find a notable increase in educational attainment for children of parents exposed to the campaign. We attribute these results to extensive government propaganda that likely shifted population attitudes towards education. Our findings suggest that literacy campaigns can be a viable strategy in developing countries with limited state capacity.

- 4 **Masters of Masterpieces: Ownership Dynamics of Top Elite's Art Investments** (with Shuo Chen, Xinyu Fan, and Luc Renneboog), Targeted *Management Science*

Abstract: This paper traces and analyzes the ownership changes of art masterpieces by merging collector information from 50,858 collection stamps with artwork information from 9,396 traditional Chinese art masterpieces. The analysis reveals three findings. First, qualitatively, the social class of collectors showed a continuous decline within the same dynasty, but masterpieces were re-centralized in the hands of top political elites after dynastic changes. Second, empirically, masterpieces increasingly flowed from higher to lower social classes in regions with higher social mobility. Third, the ownership of art masterpieces shifted from political elites (high-ranking bureaucrats) to economic elites (wealthy civilians).

- 5 **Decentralized Energy-saving Target Allocation: Allocation Efficiency and Emission Reduction Effect (in Chinese)** (with Gang Jin), Under Review at *Economic Research Journal* [经济研究]

Abstract: The allocation of energy saving targets from government to firms is a key part of the binding energy saving policy. However, how to optimize the allocation of energy-saving targets from government to firms has not yet received attention

from existing studies. This paper investigates the allocation efficiency and consequences of decentralized energy-saving target allocation based on the Top 10,000 energy saving program in China. It is found that decentralized allocation can allocate relatively more energy-saving targets to firms with higher energy intensity, thus improving the allocation efficiency. The mechanism behind this is that lower-level governments have more private information about firms' energy-saving potential. Further discussion reveals that decentralized target allocation makes it easier for firms to meet their energy-saving targets and avoids aggressive production cuts; on the other hand, it can generate significant carbon reduction effects and curb the negative economic shocks generated by carbon reduction.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- 1 **Tying Your Hands: How Funding Institution Shapes Scholars' Behavior?**
- 2 **The Paradox of Advanced Technology and State Capacity: Evidence from China's Tax Reform**
- 3 **The Art of Governing: Technological Advances and Governance Paradigm Shifts**
- 4 **Money Chasing Power**
- 5 **Mike and Mary Matter**

SKILLS

Software	Stata, Python, ArcGIS, L ^A T _E X
Language	Mandarin, English

HONORS

2024	National Scholarship (top 1%)
2022	Graduation with the Highest Honors: Distinguished Graduate of Nanjing University
2022	Outstanding Thesis, Nanjing University
2021	Outstanding Student Leaders, Jiangsu Province
2021	Outstanding Student Leaders, Nanjing University
2019	Top Ten Volunteers, Nanjing University