

JIN YAN

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Student, Economics, University of Texas at Austin, May 2022 (Expected)
M.S., Economics, University of Texas at Austin, 2018
M.S., Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University, 2016
B.A., Economics modified with Mathematics, Dartmouth College, 2011

REFERENCES

Ayşegül Şahin
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University of Texas at Austin
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Andreas I. Mueller
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TEACHING AND RESEARCH FIELDS

Labor Economics, Macroeconomics

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2021	Economics Department Summer Research Fellowship
2020	Economics Department Summer Research Fellowship
2016-2017	Economics Department Fellowship

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

2018-2021	The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Economics, Research Assistant for Professor Ayşegül Şahin
2016-2018	The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Economics, Teaching Assistant
2016	Cornell University, Department of Economics, Teaching Assistant
2012-2014	Fair Labor Association (Shanghai Office), Senior Research Analyst
2011-2012	Fair Labor Association (Shanghai Office), Research Analyst

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall, 2021	Money and Banking (Undergraduate), Teaching Assistant, <i>Professor Michael W. Brandl, The University of Texas at Austin</i>
Summer, 2018	Real Analysis for Economists (Master), Teaching Assistant, <i>Professor Kirk Blazek, The University of Texas at Austin</i>
Spring, 2018	Introduction to Microeconomics (Undergraduate), Teaching Assistant, <i>Professor Wayne Hickenbottom, The University of Texas at Austin</i>
Fall, 2017	Mathematics for Economists (Ph.D.), Teaching Assistant, <i>Professor Max Stinchcombe, The University of Texas at Austin</i>
Summer, 2017	Math Camp (Ph.D.), Teaching Assistant, <i>Professor Max Stinchcombe, The University of Texas at Austin</i>
Spring 2017	Economic Statistics (Undergraduate), Teaching Assistant, <i>Professor Valerie Bencivenga, The University of Texas at Austin</i>
Fall, 2016	Introduction to Microeconomics (Undergraduate), Teaching Assistant, <i>Professor Helen Schneider, The University of Texas at Austin</i>
Spring, 2016	International Trade Theory and Policy (Undergraduate), Teaching Assistant, <i>Professor Henry Wan, Cornell University</i>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

October 2021	The University of Texas at Austin, Texas Macro Job Candidate Conference of 2021
May 2021	The University of Texas at Austin, UT Summer Statistics Institute
July 2019	University of Bonn, RTG Summer School - "Macroeconomics of Labor Markets"
October 2018	The University of Texas at Austin, Inclusive Classrooms Leadership Certificate Seminar
September 2018	The University of California, Berkeley, Graduate Student Summit for Diversity in Economics
Referee:	<i>The Review of Economics and Statistics, American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics</i>

WORKING PAPERS

"Student Debt and Long-term Earnings" (Job Market Paper)

This paper analyzes the effect of student debt on workers' long-term labor market outcomes. I leverage institutional level financial aid policy changes as an instrument to identify the exogenous variation in student debt, use restricted-use administrative data and publicly available data, and find that workers with more student debt front-load their earnings but have a flatter experience-earnings profile. At the same time, they are more likely to work in sectors with less earnings uncertainty but higher average earnings. Building on the empirical findings, I develop and estimate a model of career choices and experimentation featuring imperfect information, risk aversion, and incomplete markets. The model emphasizes the importance of career experimentation in driving earnings growth and produces results that are consistent with the data. Furthermore, I use the model to conduct policy experiments and find that lengthening the payment period from 10 years to 20 years increases the probability of working in the risky sector by 6.2 p.p. and average earnings by 14.6% ten years after graduation.

“Unemployment in the Time of COVID-19: A Flow-Based Approach to Real-time Unemployment Projections” (with Ayşegül Şahin and Murat Tasci, NBER Working Paper 28445)

This paper presents a flow-based methodology for real-time unemployment rate projections and shows that this approach performed considerably better at the onset of the COVID-19 recession in spring 2020 in predicting the peak unemployment rate as well as its rapid decline to around 5 percent by the fall of 2021. The predictive power of the methodology comes from its combined use of real-time data with the flow approach.

“Do Firms Statistically Discriminate in Determining Wages on the Basis of Unemployment Duration?” (Second Year Paper)

This paper examines to what extent employers use unemployment duration as readily available information to infer workers' unobserved ability upon hiring. Using the NLSY79 data, I find that the longer a worker is unemployed, the less he earns initially coming out of an unemployment spell, but the wage penalty of unemployment duration decreases over time. The findings are consistent with the prediction of the employer learning with statistical discrimination model developed in Altonji and Pierret (2001). The results suggest that employers associate long unemployment duration with low ability, and therefore, put extra negative weight on unemployment duration when making initial wage offers and alleviate it only after learning about workers' underlying ability.

PUBLICATIONS

“The Unemployment Cost of COVID-19: How High and How Long?” (with Ayşegül Şahin and Murat Tasci), Cleveland Fed Economic Commentary, May 2020.

SKILLS

Computer: Julia, LaTeX, MATLAB, Python, R, SPSS, Stata, SQL

Languages: English (professional proficiency), Mandarin (native), Spanish (elementary)