

Yutao Wang

Curriculum Vitae – November 2024

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Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Singapore Management University, July 2025 (Expected)

Dissertation Title: “Essays on Labor and Family Economics”

Dissertation Committee: Christine Ho (Chair), Tomoki Fujii, Sunha Myong

M.S. in Quantitative Economics, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, June 2020

B.Econ. in Finance, Northwest A&F University, June 2017

Research Interests

Primary	Labor Economics, Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics
Secondary	Economics of the Family, Economics of Gender

Working Papers

“Social Institutions and Low Birth Rates” (with Christine Ho) *Job Market Paper*

Abstract: We document three cross-sectional stylized facts on labor supply and family formation. First, female labor force participation (FLFP) and total fertility rates (TFRs) are much lower in Eastern societies compared to Western economies. Second, labor hours and the gender pay gap are much higher in the East than in the West. Third, parents invest more on schooling in Eastern societies compared to Western economies. To account for these features, we develop and estimate a rich heterogeneous-agent model with endogenous marriage, fertility, labor supply, and time and money investment in children. Estimates using data from South Korea and the United States highlight the importance of gender norms and long work hours practices in driving down FLFP while child quality mores drive down fertility in South Korea. Our results suggest that a multi-pronged policy approach or reductions in the gender pay gap may help boost both FLFP and fertility in East Asia.

“Family Size and Child Migration: Do Daughters Face Greater Trade-Offs than Sons?” (with Christine Ho, Sharon Xuejing Zuo) under review in *The Journal of Human Resources*

Abstract: We show that, conditional on family size, rural boys and girls are equally likely to migrate with parents in China. Nevertheless, daughters’ migration may still be compromised because they tend to have more siblings in societies with strong son preference, and larger families are more likely to leave all children behind. We find that a one unit increase in sibship size decreases the probability that a daughter migrates by 12.5 percentage points—with stronger effects when migration restrictions are more stringent—but has negligible effects on sons. The results suggest that gender-neutral migration constraints may generate gendered family size trade-offs.

Selected Work in Progress

“Hukou Reform and Labor Market Sorting: A Quantitative Analysis” (with Tong Ni)

“Pension Enrolment and Child Migration in China” (with Christine Ho, Sharon Xuejing Zuo)

Publications (in Chinese)

“**Child Migration and the Labor Supply of Migrant Mothers**” (with Kaizhi Yu and Hong Zou), *Statistical Research* (in Chinese, 统计研究), 2022, 39(2), 64 – 79.

Abstract: We examine the causal effects of preschool child migration on female migrants’ labor force participation (FLFP) and their working hours. Utilizing data from the China Migrant Dynamic Survey and leveraging community-level variations in average child migration rates, we find that child migration significantly reduces both FLFP and hours worked among female migrants. These results remain robust across various checks, including relaxing the exclusion restriction with bound estimators and using alternative instruments. Further heterogeneous analyses reveal that the negative impact of child migration diminishes when access to outsourced formal childcare is available. In contrast, grandparent-provided childcare has a negligible effect on alleviating the consequences of child migration. Moreover, we provide suggestive evidence that the caregiving burden on grandparents adversely affects their health, thereby offsetting potential positive effects on female labor supply. Our findings suggest that enhancing access to formal childcare, such as daycare centers, may effectively alleviate these negative effects.

Teaching Experience

Tutorial Instructor

Demonstration Tutorial: Demographic and Family Economics (UG), SMU Fall 2022 & 2023
Teaching evaluations (7-point scale: 5 = “Good”, 6 = “Very Good”): 5.895/7 (2022), 5.963/7 (2023)

Teaching Assistant

Economics and Society (UG), SMU Spring 2025
Instructor: Prof. Nona Pepito
Topics in Public Policy (Ph.D.), SMU Fall 2024
Instructor: Prof. Christine Ho
Macroeconomics II (Ph.D.), SMU Spring 2022 & 2023
Instructor: Prof. Jianhuan Xu
Demographic and Family Economics (UG), SMU Fall 2022 & 2023
Instructor: Prof. Christine Ho
Econometrics (UG), SWUFE Fall 2019
Instructor: Prof. Weidong Zhang

Research Experience

Research Assistant to Prof. Christine Ho, SMU 2022 – 2025
Research Assistant to Prof. Jing Li, SMU 2021

Seminar and Conference Presentations

2024 (including scheduled)

Econometric Society Australasian Meeting, Monash University	Melbourne
RUC-GLO Annual Conference, Renmin University of China	Beijing
Seminar Series, Singapore Management University	Singapore
Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society in China, Zhejiang University	Hangzhou
SEHO Annual Meeting, Singapore Management University	Singapore

2023

AASLE Conference, National Taiwan University	Taipei
Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society, Nanyang Technological University	Singapore
Applied Micro Workshop, Singapore Management University	Singapore

2022

GLO Global Conference, Global Labor Organization	Virtual
Forum of Public Economics and Policy, Fudan University	Virtual
SMU Brownbag Workshop Series, Singapore Management University	Singapore

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Presidential Doctoral Fellowship ($\times 2$), SMU	2023 – 2025
Ph.D. Full Scholarship, Ministry of Education of Singapore	2020 – 2024
“Guanghua” Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award, SWUFE	2020
National Scholarship for Graduate Students, Ministry of Education of China	2019
Outstanding Master’s Student Award, SWUFE	2019
First-Tier Academic Scholarship ($\times 3$), SWUFE	2018 – 2019
Distinguished Undergraduate Dissertation Award, Northwest A&F University	2017

Professional Activities and Services

Grant Collaboration

Research Collaborator, MOE Tier 1(A) Grant, Child Migration and Human Capital Investment (SGD 38,395), Funded by Ministry of Education of Singapore, 2023 – 2025

Conference Organization

Local Organizing Committee, Society of Economics of the Household (SEHO) Annual Meeting, 2024

Summer School

Accepted Participant, Econometric Society Summer School in Dynamic Structural Econometrics (DSE) – “Policy Evaluation and Heterogeneity Measurement”, 2024

Skills and Personal Information

Programming Languages	Matlab, STATA, Fortran, R, \LaTeX Mandarin Chinese (native), English (fluent)
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References

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