

ZIWEI RAO

ziweirao.github.io | z.rao(at)rug.nl | 01st October, 1995

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Ph.D. candidate at Faculty of Economics and Business
University of Groningen

Sept. 2018 – present
Groningen, the Netherlands

Supervisors: R.J.M. (Rob) Alessie and Max Groneck

Lecturer at Faculty of Economics and Business
University of Groningen

Dec. 2021 – Aug. 2022
Groningen, the Netherlands

EDUCATION

Research Master in Economics
University of Groningen

Sept. 2016 – Sept. 2018
Groningen, The Netherlands

Thesis: Parental marriage transfer and old age support: evidence from China

B.A. in Economics
Zhejiang Gongshang University

Sept. 2012 – July 2016
Hangzhou, P.R. China

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My primary field of research is applied microeconomics, with an emphasis on labor economics and family studies. I am interested in demographic studies, economics of aging, and health economics.

RESEARCH

WORKING PAPERS

- **“Should I Stay or Should I Go? Intergenerational Transfers and Residential Choice: Evidence from China”** with Max Groneck and Rob Alessie (R&R at Journal of Demographic Economics) [[Link](#)].

Q: Do different kinds of early-life transfers received from parents influence the location decision of the child and, hence, the differential caregiving at older ages?

- **“Children or Work? The Impact of Fertility on Old-age Labour Supply”** (JMP) [[Link](#)].

Q: Does having more children or more male descendants, potentially as old-age security, save elder parents from “working until you drop”?

- **“Trapped by Good Years – The Economic Impact of Weather Shocks”**.

Q: How do rural families fare economically under weather risks with migration responses? Is good weather necessarily a good thing for the total household income?

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Ca' Foscari – Groningen Exchange Seminar, Venice; Annual Meeting of Society of the Economics of the Household (SEHO), London; Annual Conference of the European Society for Population Economics (ESPE), Calabria. 2022
- German Economic Association (VfS) Annual Conference (online); European Association of Labour Economics Annual Conference (EALE) (online); Pension Day of Network for Studies on Pensions, Aging and Retirement (Netspar), Utrecht; Leiden work-in-progress seminar, Leiden University (online); SOM PhD conference (online). 2021
- Annual Congress of European Economics Association (EEA) (online); New Paper Session of the Royal Dutch Economic Association (online); EEF brownbag seminar, Groningen. 2020
- Pension Day of Network for Studies on Pensions, Aging and Retirement (Netspar), Utrecht. 2019
- Accepted (canceled due to COVID-19): Symposium of Junior Researchers of Royal Economic Society (RES), Annual Meeting of Society of the Economics of the Household (SEHO), Annual Conference of the European Society for Population Economics (ESPE).

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE

- Master level: Research Methods in Finance, STATA Computer Practical 2018/19
- Bachelor level: Statistics II for International Business, Tutorial 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21
Economics for IB, Tutorial 2021/22
Statistics I for IB, Tutorial 2021/22
- Thesis supervision: Bachelor's Thesis Economics (6); Master's Thesis Economics (4) 2021/22

HONORS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIP

- Full Scholarship of Research Master, University of Groningen 2016/17, 2017/2018
- Excellent Graduate of Zhejiang province 2016
- Outstanding scholarships, Zhejiang Gongshang University 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16
- ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research (CEPAR) affiliate Since 2021

LANGUAGE

Chinese (native), English (fluent), Dutch (A2).

OTHER SKILLS

STATA, Matlab, SPSS, Latex.

REFERENCES

R.J.M. (Rob) Alessie

Full Professor
EEF, Faculty of Economics and Business,
University of Groningen, The Netherlands
<https://www.rug.nl/staff/r.j.m.alessie/>
Email: r.j.m.alessie[at]rug.nl

Max Groneck

Associate Professor
EEF, Faculty of Economics and Business,
University of Groningen, The Netherlands
<https://groneck.weebly.com/>
Email: m.groneck[at]rug.nl

Viola Angelini

Full Professor
EEF, Faculty of Economics and Business,
University of Groningen, The Netherlands
<https://sites.google.com/site/violaangelini/>
Email: v.angelini[at]rug.nl

ABSTRACTS

- **Should I Stay or Should I Go? Intergenerational Transfers and Residential Choice: Evidence from China**

We study the impact of parental transfers to their children in early life on the child's support to the parents at older ages either in time or with money. We conjecture that the type of transfer from the parents has an impact on what kind of help they receive from their children. Using data from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS) we find that transfers in children's education are associated with higher financial help at older ages. In contrast, transfers to support the children's marriage are positively linked with time support, such as more visits, from children to their parents. The children's residential decisions are identified as an important mechanism: transfers into education tend to let children move further away whereas marital transfers are associated with children staying closer to one's parents.

- **Children or Work? The Impact of Fertility on Old-age Labour Supply**

In this paper, I study the causal effect of fertility outcomes on the old-age labor supply in China. I employ an instrumental variable method exploiting the regional variation in family planning policies and the sex of the firstborn within families. Results show that an additional child (son) significantly reduces the probability of working at post-retirement age by 17.7 (19.8) percentage points for rural parents. The impact of having children is particularly present among the more vulnerable groups with worse health and low pension benefits. As a potential mechanism, I find a positive impact of family sizes on the total financial support by children. Overall, my results suggest that population policies that aim at reducing fertility might jeopardize the well-being of the elderly by compelling old-age parents in poor health to continue working.

- **Trapped by Good Years – The Economic Impact of Weather Shocks**

This paper investigates the effect of weather shocks on income among Chinese rural households and emphasizes the role of families' migration responses. I use household panel data from National Fixed Point survey merged with meteorological weather information at the village level. Results from a fixed effects model show a negative link between household total income and precipitation. Studying income diversification, I find a greater drop in migration income that surpasses the gains from farming following good years with more water. Labor allocation analysis further supports the potential explanation and shows that labor is reallocated from migration to agricultural work in good weather. Good years may trap rural residents in low-paying agricultural work and lead to an overall worse outcome for the family. My findings highlight a novel negative aspect of good weather shocks and suggest facilitation of migration to improve the wellbeing of rural households under climate change.