Zheng Wang

Department of Economics
European University Institute
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Education

4th year PhD grant (Tutor: Yann Bramoullé) ***2021-2022***
AMSE (France)

PhD in Economics (Supervisors: Andrea Ichino and Sule Alan) ***2017-2023***
European University Institute, Department of Economics (Italy)

MSc in Econometrics and Mathematical Economics ***2013-2014***
London School of Economics, Department of Economics (UK)

BSc International Finance (First Degree) & Applied Mathematics (Second Degree) ***2009-2013***
Beihang University (China)

Working and Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant
PhD level compulsory course, Econometrics III, Prof. Michéle Belot, EUI ***2019***
PhD level compulsory course, Econometrics I, Prof. Andrea Ichino, EUI ***2019***

Research Assistant ***2018-2019***
Prof. Andrea Ichino, European University Institute

Junior Economist ***2016-2017***
Research Department, International Labor Organization (Geneva)

Research Assistant ***2015-2016***
Research Department, International Labor Organization (Geneva)

Data Analyst ***2015***
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Geneva)

Other Training

Summer School on The Economics of Networks ***2021***
AMSE (France)

Summer School on The Econometrics of Peer Effects and Social Interactions ***2019***
Prof. Bryan Graham & Prof. Aureo de Paula (Germany)

Research Interests

Networks, Causality, Peer Effect, Applied Econometrics

Work in progress

The Linking Effect: Causal Identification and Estimation of the Effect of Peer Relationship (JMP)

This paper proposes a new conceptual framework to study the causal effects of peer relationships. It offers more general ways to analysing effects of peer relationships than the often used linear-in-means models, and allows the identification and estimation of such causal effects when relationships are endogenously formed, such as friendships and buyer-supplier relationships. Unlike the existing literature, I show that identification can be achieved without modelling the network

formation process and holds under quite general assumptions. Moreover, with some modifications, existing propensity score based estimators can be flexibly used for estimation. To show how this works in practice, I re-analyse the paper by \cite{cools_girls_2019} which examines the gendered effects of same-cohort high school peers on one's bachelor degree attainment. Using the same data, I instead investigate the effect of high school friendships. Interestingly, the impact of close social interactions with one's friends is found to exhibit very different patterns than that of general interactions with same-cohort-mates, highlighting the potential benefits of empirically studying endogenously formed peer relationships to the enrichment of our current understanding of peer influence.

The Perils of Pairwise Peer Effect Joint with *Yann Bramoullé* and *Pierre-Philippe Combes*

Pairwise regressions have been increasingly more commonly used to study peer influence, noticeably after the influential paper by Bayer, Ross and Topa (2008). In this paper we show both the identification and inference issues coming from pairwise regressions.

Competitive Peer Effect – the Case of Duolingo

This paper studies the effect of competition difficulty on one's effort exertion. Using data from Duolingo leaderboard where language learners are randomly put into group competition, I find evidence suggesting that people react to competition difficulty differently depending on their time constraint and their level of commitment.

The Effect of Victimization on Long-Term Outcomes

Joint with *Christian Dustmann, Rasmus Landersø and Mikkel Mertz*

Using Danish administrative data, we show how different aspects of victimization causally affect the long-term outcomes of the victims.

Experiment on Standardized Language Test (pilot ongoing) Joint with *Dalila Figueiredo*

Computer Skills

R, Matlab, Python, Stata

Languages

Mandarin (Native), English (Fluent), French (Basic), Italian (Basic)