

# ELMER ZONGYANG LI

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International Monetary Fund  
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## POSITIONS

### International Monetary Fund

Economist (EP), Research Department - Structural and Climate Policies

September 2024 - present

- Lead author and technical coordinator for forthcoming **Staff Discussion Note** on skill gaps in an AI age; led cross-country analysis of skill diffusion and regional productivity and labor market diagnostics using firm and worker microdata.
- Contributed to **South Africa** and **Vietnam Article IV** consultations; co-authored Selected Issues Papers on structural reforms to boost productivity, growth, and skill match.
- Drafted strategic note on US trade, inequality, and the middle class for the MD; prepared high-level closed door panel for the MD; organized “Jobs, Growth, and Structural Reforms” seminar series; presented research internally and externally.
- Strengthened Fund-wide data access by coordinating with ITD to secure and deploy labor market data infrastructure across RES.

### Government and Research Institutions (Pre-graduate)

Research Fellow, NYC Mayor’s Office for Economic Opportunity

2017 - 2018

Graduate Researcher, NYU Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy

2016 - 2017

Summer Analyst, United Nations Development Programme

Summer 2016

Chief Interpreter, City Government of Haikou, China

2014 - 2015

## EDUCATION

### Cornell University

Ph.D. in Economics

2024

Master of Arts in Economics

2021

*Dissertation:* Labor Demand and the Macroeconomy

*Committee:* Philipp Kircher, Julieta Caunedo, Michael Lovenheim

*Research fields:* Macroeconomics, Labor Economics, Trade, Industry Dynamics

### New York University

Master of Public Administration

2017

*Specialization:* Public Finance, Financial Management

## POLICY WORK AND FUND PUBLICATIONS

“**Bridging Skill Gaps for the Future: New Jobs Creation in the AI Age,**” (with Jaumotte, Florence, Jaden Kim, David Koll, Longji Li, Giovanni Melina, Alina Song, and Marina M. Tavares) *IMF Staff Discussion Note* 2025, Under Review

**Vietnam: “Boosting Productivity and Medium-Term Growth in Vietnam,”** *IMF Selected Issues Papers*, 284 (2025). IMF Country Report No. 25/284. [[link](#)]

**South Africa: “Structural Drivers of Unemployment and Labor Market Adjustment,”** *IMF Selected Issues Papers*, 041 (2025). IMF Country Report No. 25/41. [[link](#)]

## WORKING PAPERS

### **“Occupational Skill Mixing Under Technological Advancements.”** [\[link\]](#)

*Presentations.* In 2024: IMF RES, SaM Asia-Pacific (NUS), Wake Forest University, Norwegian School of Economics, Amherst College, Monash University, Tilburg University, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, DUFE IAER. In 2023: Labor Firms Macro (UPenn), Midwest Macro Conference, European Economic Association (EEA) Annual Congress, ASSA/AEA Annual Meeting. In 2022 and earlier: Southern Economics Association (SEA), Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economics (AASLE), Economics Graduate Student Conference (EGSC) at WUSTL, Cornell Labor Work-in-Progress

### **“Domestic Trade Shocks from E-Commerce Expansion: Evidence from Amazon’s Facilities.”** [\[link\]](#)

*Presentations.* In 2025/4: Chinese Economic Society Annual Meeting, ASSA/AEA Annual Meeting, Southern Economics Association (SEA). In 2023: Urban Economic Association (UEA), Eastern Economic Association. In 2022: Conference on Urban and Regional Economics (Philadelphia Fed) , Midwest Macroeconomics , Midwest International Trade , Cornell Macroeconomics Lunch , CIREQ Graduate Student Conference

## WORK IN PROGRESS

“The Quantity-Quality Tradeoff of Employment and Labor Share Effects of Monetary Policy.”

“The Rise of Dollar and Decline of Business Dynamism,” with Wentong Chen

“Household Debt, Firm Mark-up and Mark-down,” with Shihan Shen

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### **Research Assistanships**

Prof. Philipp Kircher (Cornell University)	2022
Prof. Pauline Leung (Cornell University)	2021
Prof. Warren Brown (Cornell University) and Prof. Sarah Hamersma (Syracuse)	2019 - 2020
Prof. Julieta Caunedo (Cornell University)	2020

## SELECTED GRANTS AND AWARDS

Laura Bassi Publication Accelerator Grant, Bassi Foundation	2023
AEA, CIREQ Meetings Travel Grants	2022-2023
Small Grant in Labor Economics, Cornell University	2020
Maltby, Lucy Fellowship, Cornell University	2018
Human Service Studies Graduate Fellowship, Cornell University	2018
Eastwood, Ruth Ada Birk Scholarship, Cornell University	2018
Rollins, Mabel Scholarship, Cornell University	2018
Association for Education Finance and Policy Travel Grant	2018
Department of Economics & Brooks School Travel Awards (× 5), Cornell University	2018-2024
Ellen Schall Summer Grant, New York University	2016
First National Award in English Public Speaking, Ministry of Education of China	2012

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **Cornell University**

Intermediate Microeconomics Theory, TA for Prof. Philipp Kircher	Spring 2023
Introductory Macroeconomics, TA for Prof. Jennifer Wissink	Fall 2021, Fall 2022
Multiple Regression Analysis, TA for Prof. Nicolas Bottan	Spring 2022
Behavioral Economics and Public Policy, TA for Prof. Brandon Tripp	Fall 2020, Spring 2021
Intermediate Policy Analysis, TA for Prof. Rick Geddes	Spring 2020
Economics of the Public Sector, TA for Prof. Brandon Tripp	Fall 2019

**New York University**

Microeconomics, Tutor for Prof. Sewin Chen

Fall 2016

**SERVICE EXPERIENCE**

Mentor for Fund Internship Program, International Monetary Fund	Summer 2025
Judge and Selection Committee Member, Cornell Undergraduate Research Board	Spring 2024
Mentor for DEI Program PhD students, Cornell Brooks School	Summer 2023
Mentor for Graduate Mentoring Program, Cornell Economics Department	Summer 2023
Graduate Field Representative, Cornell Graduate Student Association	2019 - 2020
Vice Chair, Wagner Economics and Finance Association	2016 - 2017
Mentor for Underrepresented Students, NYC Urban Assembly Academy	2015 - 2016

**OTHER TRAININGS**

Macro Finance Summer School, Princeton University	2024
Certificate of Data, Statistical Inference and Modeling, Duke University	2015
Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Level I passed	2015
Certified Accounting Professional of China	2013
Exchange Student, Hong Kong University	2013
Exchange Student, Chinese Culture University (Taipei)	2012

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Programming: MATLAB, Stata, R, SAS, ArcGIS, Tableau; familiar with Python, SQL  
Languages: English (fluent), Chinese Mandarin (native)

Last updated: November, 2025