Eric Qian

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Placement Director	Gianluca Violante	violante@princeton.edu	(609) 258-4003
Graduate Administrator	Laura Hedden	lhedden@princeton.edu	(609) 258-4006

Graduate Studies

Princeton University *2020–present*
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Expected Completion Date: May 2026

References

Professor Mikkel Plagborg-Møller
Princeton University
mikkelpm@princeton.edu

Professor Mark Watson
Princeton University
mwatson@princeton.edu

Professor John Grigsby
Princeton University
john.grigsby@princeton.edu

Prior Education

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Statistics (Highest Distinction) *2014–2018*

Duke University
Minor in Economics (Robertson Scholars Program) *2014–2018*

Fields

Primary	Econometrics, Macroeconomics
Secondary	Monetary Economics

Publications (including accepted and forthcoming)

1. Local Projections or VARs? A Primer for Macroeconomists with José Luis Montiel Olea, Mikkel Plagborg-Møller, and Christian K. Wolf. Prepared for the *2025 NBER Macroeconomics Annual.*

2. Are Inflationary Shocks Regressive? A Feasible Set Approach with Felipe Del Canto, John Grigsby, and Conor Walsh. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (November 2025).

3. SVAR Identification From Higher Moments: Has the Simultaneous Causality Problem Been Solved? with José Luis Montiel Olea and Mikkel Plagborg-Møller. *AEA Papers and Proceedings* (2022).

Job Market Paper

Testing for Omitted Heterogeneity (2025).

Structural estimation inevitably involves a choice of which parameters to treat as homogeneous across units, and incorrectly imposing homogeneity can lead to uninterpretable parameter estimates. To discipline this choice with data, I develop an optimal test for omitted unit-level heterogeneity applicable to moment condition models. Unlike existing semiparametric specification tests for heterogeneity, the test asymptotically maximizes a weighted average power criterion; for the special case of scalar heterogeneity, the test is the asymptotically uniformly most powerful test. Through simulations, I show that likelihood-based tests for parameter heterogeneity can severely over-reject when the likelihood function is misspecified. I study two applications. First, applied to income dynamics, I use the heterogeneity test as a diagnostic to determine the appropriate level of aggregation by education groups. Second, firm-level heterogeneity threatens estimates of production functions and ultimately estimates of the distribution of markups. Estimating production functions at the subindustry level, I use the test as a diagnostic for determining the subindustries whose moment conditions are compatible with the data.

Working Papers

1. Heterogeneity-Robust Granular Instruments. Revise and resubmit at the *Journal of Applied Econometrics. Marimar and Cristina Torres Prize for Best Third Year Paper.*
2. Double Robustness of Local Projections and Some Unpleasant VARithmetic with José Luis Montiel Olea, Mikkel Plagborg-Møller, and Christian K. Wolf. Cond. accepted at *Econometrica*.

Publications and Blog Articles (pre-graduate)

1. A Large Bayesian VAR of the U.S. Economy with Richard Crump, Stefano Eusepi, Domenico Giannone and Argia Sbordone. *International Journal of Central Banking* (April 2025).
2. Nowcasting the Great Recession with Patrick Adams, Domenico Giannone, Argia Sbordone, and Mihir Trivedi. Chapter in *Alternative Economic Indicators* (2020).
3. What Do Financial Conditions Tell Us about Risks to GDP Growth? with Patrick Adams, Tobias Adrian, Nina Boyarchenko, Domenico Giannone, and Nellie Liang. Federal Reserve Bank of New York, *Liberty Street Economics* (May 21, 2020).
4. Just Released: Historical Reconstruction of the New York Fed Staff Nowcast, 2002–15 with Patrick Adams, Domenico Giannone, and Argia Sbordone. Federal Reserve Bank of New York, *Liberty Street Economics* (July 12, 2019).
5. Global Trends in Interest Rates with Marco Del Negro, Domenico Giannone, Marc Giannoni, Andrea Tambalotti, and Brandyn Bok. Federal Reserve Bank of New York, *Liberty Street Economics* (February 27, 2019).
6. Monitoring Economic Conditions during a Government Shutdown with Patrick Adams, Domenico Giannone, and Argia Sbordone. Federal Reserve Bank of New York, *Liberty Street Economics* (February 5, 2019).
7. Opening the Toolbox: The Nowcasting Code on GitHub with Patrick Adams, Brandyn Bok, Daniele Caratelli, Domenico Giannone, Argia Sbordone, Camilla Schneier, and Andrea Tambalotti. Federal Reserve Bank of New York, *Liberty Street Economics* (August 10, 2018).

Honors and Awards

Marimar and Cristina Torres Prize for Best Third Year Paper, Princeton University	*2023*
Harold Willis Dodds Merit Fellowship in Economics, Princeton University	*2020–2021*
Princeton University Graduate Fellowship	*2020–present*
VAULT Award, Federal Reserve Bank of New York	*2018, 2020*
Robertson Scholars Program, UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University	*2014–2018*
Departmental Highest Honors, UNC-Chapel Hill (Department of Statistics and Operations Research)	*2018*
Phi Beta Kappa, UNC-Chapel Hill	*2018*

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant for Econometric Theory II (ECO 518) with Profs. Ulrich Müller and Mikkel Plagborg-Møller, PhD-level	*Spring 2025*
Teaching Assistant for Macroeconomic Analysis for Policymakers (SPI 512C) with Prof. John Grigsby, MPA-level	*Spring 2023*
Teaching Assistant for Statistics and Data Analysis for Economics (ECO 202) with Prof. Oscar Torres-Reyna, undergraduate-level	*Fall 2022*

Research Positions

Research Assistant to Prof. Mikkel Plagborg-Møller	*2021–2024*
Research Assistant to Prof. John Grigsby	*2022*
Senior Research Analyst, Federal Reserve Bank of New York	*2018–2020*
Summer Analyst, Federal Reserve Bank of New York	*2017*

Professional Activities

Presentations and Seminars

ASSA 2025 Annual Meeting, 2024 NBER-NSF Time Series Conference (poster), North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society (2023)

Refereeing

Journal of Applied Econometrics, *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*, *Journal of Monetary Economics*, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, *Quantitative Economics*

Other Services

Organizer of the Princeton Econometrics Student Workshop (2023–2025), First-year graduate student mentor (2022–2025)

Additional Information

Skills	MATLAB, R, Julia, LaTeX, Python, Stata, EViews, SAS
Citizenship	USA