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. Revise and resubmit 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).
- 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).
- 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 Uni-	2023
versity	
Harold Willis Dodds Merit Fellowship in Economics, Princeton University	2020 – 2021
Princeton University Graduate Fellowship	$2020 ext{-}present$
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	2018
Operations Research)	
Phi Beta Kappa, UNC-Chapel Hill	2018

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant for Econometric Theory II (ECO 518) with Profs. Ulrich Spring 2025 Müller and Mikkel Plagborg-Møller, PhD-level

Teaching Assistant for Macroeconomic Analysis for Policymakers (SPI 512C) with Spring 2023 Prof. John Grigsby, MPA-level

Teaching Assistant for Statistics and Data Analysis for Economics (ECO 202) Fall 2022 with Prof. Oscar Torres-Reyna, undergraduate-level

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