Yangyang (Claire) Meng

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Education

New York University (NYU)   New York
M.S. in Quantitative Economics   2025/07 − 2026/06 (expected)

Zhejiang University (ZJU)   Hangzhou
B.A. in Economics; GPA 3.98/4.0 (ranked 1st);   2021/09 − 2025/06
- Ph.D.-level courses: Topics on Microeconometrics (Prof. Songnian Chen, ZJU), Game Theory and Information Economics (Prof. Ruqu Wang, Queen's University)
- Undergraduate-level courses: Advanced Microeconomics, Advanced Econometrics, Real Analysis, Partial Differential Equations (PDEs), Ordinary Differential Equations (ODEs), Stochastic Processes, Probability and Mathematical Statistics, Linear Algebra, Calculus

University of Toronto (U of T)   Toronto
Visiting Student Researcher   2024/07 − 2024/12
- Audited Ph.D.-level courses: Microeconomic Theory (Prof. Marcin Pęski, U of T), Industrial Organization (Prof. Yanyou Chen, U of T)

Research Assistantship

New York University, Stern School of Business
Research Assistant for Prof. Christopher Conlon (NYU)   2025/08 − Present

University of Toronto, Department of Economics
Research Assistant for Prof. Yao Luo (U of T)   2024/05 − 2025/05
Research Assistant for Prof. Yanyou Chen (U of T)   2024/07 − 2024/11

Zhejiang University, School of Economics
Research Assistant for Prof. Zhe Yuan (ZJU)   2023/05 − 2025/05

Research Projects

Driving the Drivers: Algorithmic Discrimination and Wage-Setting in Ride-Hailing
with Prof. Yanyou Chen (U of T), Prof. Yao Luo (U of T), and Prof. Zhe Yuan (ZJU)   2023/05 − 2023/07
- Utilized the Mobile App Automation tool Appium to assist in scraping ride details data from Amap
- Collected rainfall data from various counties and cities in China in recent years, to serve as an instrumental variable for the economic development level of hometowns for rideshare drivers

Demand for Clean Water in China
with Prof. Loren Brandt (U of T), Prof. Yao Luo (U of T), and Jian Zou (Cornell)   2024/05 − 2025/05
- Scraped and collected basic information and shareholder data of over 10,000 sewage treatment companies from the Qichacha website
- Carried out a detailed onsite assessment at the Third Sewage Treatment Plant in Yanggu County, Shandong Province

Did Harold Zuercher Have Time-Separable Preferences?
with Prof. Jay Lu (UCLA), Prof. Yao Luo (U of T), and Prof. Kota Saito (Caltech)   2024/07 − 2025/03
- Built a 12-year database of rooftop changes in Toronto using QGIS, Python, and deep learning algorithms to identify and classify roof modifications at the individual house level
- Conducted an empirical extension of the Rust Model by substituting Zuercher's bus engine change data with Toronto's rooftop change data, validating the robustness of the expanded model

Long-Term Contracts and Secondary Markets: Evidence from Natural Gas Pipelines
with Prof. Yanyou Chen (U of T), and Prof. Emmanuel Leclair (University of Chicago)   2024/10 − 2024/12
- Developed detailed maps using QGIS to visualize the temporal changes in how various regions across the U.S. were impacted by the cold wave over time

- Conducted a staggered difference-in-differences analysis using R to examine the impact of the 2015 U.S. cold wave on trading behavior in the natural gas secondary market

E-Commerce, Taobao Villages and Urban-rural Income Gap

with Prof. Zhe Yuan (ZJU)   2023/03 – 2024/05

- Performed a systematic review of China's rural e-commerce policies and the impact of e-commerce on rural economic development
- Conducted field research at Hualian Village, a Chinese e-commerce demonstration village located in Sandun Town, Hangzhou
- Formulated an empirical econometric model based on the PSM-DID method

Exploring Sales Drivers in Live Streaming E-Commerce: the Interaction between Heterogeneity of Live Streamers and Demonstration Strategies

with Prof. Song Yuan (ZJU), and Prof. Zhe Yuan (ZJU)   2023/05 – 2024/02

- Web-scraped live-streaming data from 685,802 Douyin hosts, including user IDs, gender, geographic location based on IP, and merchandise details. The merchandise-related data includes item price, live sales volume, duration of explanation, and host commission rates, etc
- Constructed a consumer behavior model based on the SOR (Stimulus-Organism-Response) framework

Work-in-progress

Hidden Webs of Collusion: How Bidder Networks Distort Competition in Procurement Auctions

solo-authored, online draft   2024/11 – Present

Keywords: *Procurement*; *Auction*; *Collusion*; *Social Networks*;

Abstract: This paper investigates how social networks influence bidding outcomes in China's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) auctions, with a particular focus on the potential for collusion. Using a rich dataset of PPP auctions, I show that firms occupying more central positions in the bidding network systematically outperform their rivals; in particular, those in the top quartile of network centrality are 9.99% more likely to win. To distinguish genuine synergy from collusive coordination, I develop a structural model that endogenizes alliance formation and strategic interactions. The estimation results confirm that while social ties can enhance cooperation and resource pooling, they also create pronounced risks of collusive behavior, thus highlighting the need for careful auction design and rigorous oversight in public procurement.

Honors

- Outstanding Graduate of Zhejiang University (top 3%)
- Provincial Government Scholarship (top 5%)
- 2021-2022 Zhejiang University Scholarship (top 8%)
- 2022-2023 Zhejiang University Scholarship (top 8%)

Skills

- Language proficiency: Chinese (native), English (fluent)
- Programming skills: Python (Proficient), Stata (Proficient), R (Proficient), QGIS (Proficient), Matlab (Proficient), Julia (Intermediate), SAS (Intermediate)

Updated on September, 2025