

# Giannan Zhou

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## Education

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Colorado Boulder, 2021 (Expected)  
M.A. in Economics, Central University of Finance and Economics, 2014  
B.A. in Economics, Hebei University of Technology, 2012

## Research Fields

Macroeconomics, Behavioral Economics, Econometrics

## Working Paper

“Survey Evidence on Habit Formation: Existence, Specification, and Implication” ([Job Market Paper](#))

Habit formation is a staple of macroeconomics and finance, but insufficient micro evidence has led to controversies over its existence, specification, and implication. This paper documents new and extensive micro evidence for habit formation, through survey experiments eliciting ten preference parameters informative about habit formation. The evidence suggests that habit forms both internally and externally, depreciates by around two-thirds annually, and has an about equisized welfare impact as peer effect. I also propose and implement four tests of additive and multiplicative habits and find that these ubiquitous preferences are rejected. Evidence-based simulations show that combining habit formation with peer effect could explain the Easterlin paradox.

## Publication

“A Social Interaction Model with Ordered Choices” with Xiaodong Liu, *Economics Letters*, 2017.

We introduce a social interaction model with ordered choices. We provide a micro foundation for the econometric model based on an incomplete information network game and characterize the sufficient condition for the existence of a unique equilibrium of the game. We discuss the identification of the model and propose to estimate the model by the NFXP and NPL algorithms. We conduct Monte Carlo simulations to investigate the finite sample performance of these two estimation methods.

## Research Papers

“Efficiency Wages and the Cost of Business Cycles”

In many macroeconomic models, the cost of business cycle fluctuations is too small to justify the effort being put into stabilization policies, and no model from the literature that tries to generate larger costs of business cycle fluctuations has become standard. In this paper, I integrate the labor market interactions as reflected by efficiency wages into an otherwise New Keynesian model to show how fluctuations can change the mean level of unemployment, thereby creating a large cost of business cycles.

“Measuring Altruism”

Does altruism vary with relationships, demographics, and behavior? Structurally estimating a measure of altruism, I find that after controlling for demographics and behavior, the altruism measure increases with the closeness of relationships. Senior white people who are healthier and have more children are on average more altruistic than others. Regarding behavior, people measured as being more selfless tend to retire later, to save more before retirement and for precautionary purposes, to be more likely to leave a bequest greater than \$10,000, to transfer more than \$500 to children while alive, and to spend more than 100 hours helping a grandchild.

## **Works in Progress**

“Elections and Happiness” with Miles Kimball, Fumio Ohtake, Collin Raymond, Yoshiro Tsutsui, Junya Zhou

Dynamic response of happiness to election outcomes and dynamic theories of happiness.

“Habit Formation Preferences Consistent with Survey Evidence: Axiomatics and Implications”

What do micro-consistent habit formation preferences look like and imply?

## **Honors, Scholarships, Fellowships**

Eric D. Bovet Endowed Fellowship (x2), 2017, 2018

Sieglinde T. Haller Endowed Economics Scholarship, 2016

Prize in Econometrics, 2016

Wyn Owen Special Fellowship, 2014

## **Teaching Experience**

Instructor

Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory, 2018

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory, 2016, 2017

Teaching Assistant

Macroeconomic Theory I & II (Ph.D.), 2015, 2016

Microeconomic Theory I & II (Ph.D.), 2015, 2016

Mathematical Statistics (Ph.D.), 2015

Econometrics (Ph.D.), 2016

Principles of Macroeconomics, 2015, 2018, 2019

Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory, 2020

Principles of Microeconomics, 2014

Environmental Economics, 2017

Introduction to Statistics with Computer Applications, 2020

## **Presentations**

Western Economic Association International Graduate Student Workshop, 2019

Canadian Economics Association Annual Conference, 2019

Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado Boulder, 2019

## **References**

Professor Miles Kimball (Primary Advisor)	miles.kimball@colorado.edu	+1 (303) 492-8295
Professor Alessandro Peri	alessandro.peri@colorado.edu	+1 (303) 492-7727
Professor Martin Boileau	martin.boileau@colorado.edu	+1 (303) 492-2108
Professor Xingtang Zhang	xingtang.zhang@colorado.edu	+1 (303) 492-7541