

# Junyi Hou

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## EDUCATION

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- University of California, Berkeley**, Ph.D. Economics 2015-2021 (expected)
- Dissertation: Essays in Development Economics and Political Economy
  - References: [Prof. Gérard Roland](#) (chair); [Prof. Andrés Rodríguez-Clare](#); [Prof. Yuriy Gorodnichenko](#)
  - Ning Fellowship, 2015-2017, Doctoral Completion Fellowship, 2020
- London School of Economics**, MSc. Econometrics and Mathematical Economics 2013-2014
- Graduate with distinction, Ely Devons Prize (top of the class)
- Nankai University**, Bachelor in Economics (*with minor in Applied Mathematics*) 2009-2013
- Finalist for Best Undergraduate Thesis, 2013, First-Class Outstanding Student Scholarship, 2011; 2012

## SKILLS & TOOLS

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Causal Inference, Structural Estimation, Experiment Design; Python, SQL, Linux, Bash, Git, STATA, LaTeX, elisp

## EXPERIENCE

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- Uber, Inc.**, Data Scientist II (part-time); Data Scientist Intern 2019-2020  
*Business Economics Team (manager: [Dan Knoepfle](#))*
- Understanding drivers' responses to promotion programs**
- Modeled drivers' selections and subsequent labor supply based on earnings and promotion schedules, estimated drivers' earning distribution non-parametrically, predicted drivers' participation and labor supply consistently
  - Informed cost-benefit analyses of the largest driver promotion product in over 100 cities in the U.S. Addressed concerns in low participation and completion rates in the promotion product.
- Estimating drivers' labor supply under non-linear compensation scheme**
- Developed a structural model to predict labor supply of drivers facing non-linear compensation schedules, explained observed empirical pattern with estimated driver reservation wage
  - Presented in policy economics group and cross-function teams
- Evaluating the driver promotion program at the individual level**
- Recovered distribution of treatment effect by exploiting variations in the same driver's exposures to both control and treatment arms in repeated A/B tests

## ACADEMIC WORKS

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- Can State Capitalism Promote Innovation? Evidence from China** Job Market Paper
- First paper to structurally estimate the welfare loss from political connections distorting firms' R&D decisions
  - Showed, through an endogenous growth model, heterogeneous factor market access creates a wedge in return to innovation and potentially resource misallocation in the R&D sector
  - Estimated the model via a simulated method of moment estimator on large scale Chinese firm-level dataset
  - Found the productivity growth in China is 1.2 percentage point lower (3.8% instead of 5.0%) due to privileges of inefficient but politically connected firms, which leads to 23% lower welfare.
- Political Connection, Financial Frictions, and Allocative Efficiency** Work in Progress
- Studied how financial frictions affects allocative efficiencies across manufacturing firms in China
  - Identified a specific source of resource misallocation, namely the political connectedness of firms. Showed politically connected firms have better access to bank credits despite lower profitability and more defaults before the reform
  - Showed the 2004 Chinese banking reform improved allocative efficiency over 20% using a *diff-in-diff* design, and that this improvement is mostly due to expansions of politically unconnected firms gaining access to credit after the reform
- UC Berkeley; Stanford University; Centre for Economic Performance** 2014; 2015; 2016-2017  
*Research Assistant to [Prof. Peter Lorentzen](#), [Prof. Dave Donaldson](#), [Prof. Silvana Tenreyro](#)*
- Replicated empirical studies (Romer and Romer 2004; Uhlig 2005a, 2008); cleaned and managed large data sets (CEX, CEPII Trade); wrote numerical GE solvers (Allen, Arkolakis and Takahashi 2014)

## IMMIGRATION STATUS

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Citizenship: China, Visa Status: F1, U.S. permanent residency expected in December 2020.