KEVIN (KUANG-YU) PENG

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EDUCATION

Economics, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine — *Expected by* June 2026

Master of Arts, Economics, University of California, Irvine — 2020 - 2023
with distinction in Microeconomic Theory Qualifying Examination.

Bachelor of Arts, Public Finance, National Chengchi University, Taiwan — 2015 - 2020

Bachelor of Science, Risk Management and Insurance, National Chengchi University, Taiwan — 2015 - 2020

Minor, Management Information Systems, National Chengchi University, Taiwan — 2015 - 2020

Exchange Program, Mathematics and Statistics, James Madison University, Virginia — 2019 - 2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Instructor of Record — 2023 - 2025
University of California, Irvine — *Irvine, CA*

- ECON 15A: Probability and Statistics in Economics I (Summer 2024, 2025).
- ECON 15B: Probability and Statistics in Economics II (Summer 2023).

Guest Lecturer — 2023 - 2025
University of California, Irvine — *Irvine, CA*

- ECON 203A: Mathematics for Economists (Fall 2023, 2024, 2025).
  MATLAB instruction, assignment creation and grading.

Teaching Assistant — 2020 - today
University of California, Irvine — *Irvine, CA*

- Graduate courses
  - ECON 210A: Microeconomic Theory I (Fall 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024).
  - ECON 210C: Microeconomic Theory III (Spring 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025).
  - MPAC 291: Professional Research and Communication (Fall 2025).
- Upper-division courses
  - ECON 100A: Intermediate Economics I (Fall 2020).
  - ECON 100B: Intermediate Economics II (Winter 2022, 2023).
  - ECON 115: Behavioral Economics (Winter 2024, 2025).
  - ECON 140: Managerial Economics (Summer 2021).
- Lower-division courses
  - ECON 15A: Probability and Statistics in Economics I (Summer 2022).
  - ECON 25: Economics of Accounting Decisions (Spring 2021).
  - SOCSCI 3A: Computer-Based Research in Social Sciences (Winter 2021).

Math Tutor in Calculus I-III and College Algebra — 2020
Science & Math Learning Center at James Madison University — *Harrisonburg, VA*

English Teacher — Nov 2018 - Jun 2019
iPax English — *Taipei, Taiwan*

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Clifford S. Heinz Chair Research Funding 2025

Doc 2A Non-Resident Supplemental Tuition Funding 2025

Conference Travel Funding 2024 - 2025

Best Teaching Assistant in a Graduate Course Award 2023

Summer Research Fellowship, Department of Economics 2022 - 2025

RESEARCH FIELDS AND INTERESTS

Primary: Algorithmic decision theory | Experimental economics | Behavioral economics.

Secondary: Game theory | Industrial organization.

JOB MARKET PAPER

Discrete Random Expected Utility and Self-Selection. Co-authored with Igor Kopylov.

Abstract: We model stochastic choice rules via finitely many types θ that maximize distinct expected utility functions and use endogenous tie-breaking rules. First, we characterize *discrete random expected utility* (DREU) where the likelihood $\mu(\theta)$ of each relevant type θ is preserved across all menus A. This model is a discrete version for the *random expected utility* of Gul and Pesendorfer (2006), but our axioms, identification, and tie-breaking procedures are novel. More generally, we propose *discrete-map expected utility* (DMEU), where the likelihoods $\mu_A(\theta)$ are contingent on the menu A. The continuous map μ_A is identified uniquely in our model. DMEU captures various kinds of *context dependence*, such as reason-based choice, extremeness aversion, and other behavioral patterns. Moreover, we use DMEU to model *self-selection*, where types can increase their participation rates across distinct menus, but only if their best choices are improved. The standard *monotonicity* principle for stochastic choices delivers a novel *self-selective* property for the type likelihoods μ_A. This bias is identifiable because all types are assumed to maximize expected utility functions. By contrast, it can distort the likelihoods $\mu(\theta)$ without turning Block-Marschak polynomials negative in the general random utility model. Finally, we discuss applications to random *risk aversion* and random *Cobb-Douglas utility*.

WORKING PAPERS

Certainty as a Decoy: an Experiment to Test Menu Dependence in Heterogeneous Risk Attitudes.

Data Algorithms in Incomplete Constant Threshold Representations.

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Algorithmic Identification of Heterogeneous Types in Incomplete Datasets.

Two-Fold Semiorder Preference for Spatial Product Dimensions.

Speedy and Accurate Decisions in the Face of Uncertainty.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Behavioral & Experimental Economics Stanford-Caltech-UC Student Conference. Presentation. 2025

AEA CSQIEP Mentoring Conference in Chicago. Paper Workshop. 2025

Southwest Economic Theory Conference at University of Arizona. Presentation. 2025

Northwestern-Kellogg Summer School in Economic Theory. Poster session. 2024

Southwest Economic Theory Conference at UC, Irvine. Presentation. 2023

Poster Session for Summer Research at UC, Irvine Poster sessions. 2022 - 2024

NATO ACT Tide Sprint in Virginia Beach Presentation. 2019

SERVICE

Southwest Economic Theory Conference at UC, Irvine. Co-organizer. 2023

Economics Ph.D. Students Recruitment Event at UC, Irvine. Panelist and Housing Tour Guide. 2025

SKILLS

Languages: Mandarin (Traditional, native) | English (bilingual) | German (CEFR B1)

Computing: R (preferred) | MATLAB | Python (and oTree) | Java | LaTeX

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

X-Labs, James Madison University. Collaboration with NATO Allied Command Transformation (ACT). 2020 NATO ACT sponsored the problem on decision training to the Hacking for Diplomacy course at James Madison University. I was in charge of programming and research in economic theories for this project. My team presented a prototype at Tide Sprint, Fall 2019. Project in progress for the paper *Speedy and Accurate Decisions in the Face of Uncertainty*.

REFERENCES

Igor Kopylov (Chair)
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