

# YU-KUAN CHEN

kuan.chen@rice.edu

## RESEARCH FIELDS

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Economics of Education, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

## EDUCATION

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|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Ph.D. Economics, Rice University           | expected 2024 |
| MPhil Economics, University of Oxford      | 2016          |
| B.A. Economics, National Taiwan University | 2013          |

## SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

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| George R. Zodrow Award for Best Performance in a Workshop, Rice University           | 2020 & 2022 |
| Graduate Fellowship, Rice University   | 2017-2023   |
| Post Graduate Researchers Funding, Oxford Spring School in Advanced Research Methods | 2016        |
| Ministry of Education Study Abroad Scholarship, Taiwan                               | 2012        |

## WORKING PAPERS

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### **Preference Heterogeneity in Admission to Universities and the Effects of Reserve Seats: Improving Gender Balance in STEM Programs (Job Market Paper)**

This paper explores how preferences of both students and university programs in the admissions process relates to the gender gap in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Using data from the centralized admission system, we estimate preferences for both applicants and programs. To account for applicants' and programs' decision timing, we introduce a modified version of the truth-telling assumptions for estimating preferences under deferred-acceptance mechanism. We find substantial heterogeneity across programs in gender preferences in their ranking of applicants. Counterfactual simulations show that reserve seats for women in STEM programs have smaller effects than expected and lead to limited changes in female representation.

### **The Effect of Pretrial Juvenile Detention on Youth Recidivism: Evidence from Low-Risk Youths**, with Diego Amador

Many youths accused of delinquent conduct are detained as their cases get processed by juvenile courts. Using administrative data for all initial detention decisions made in in one of the largest counties in the US over more than a decade, we find that these short-term detentions of low-risk youths lead to a sizeable increase in the likelihood of rearrest. We also find that these effects concentrate on youths arrested for misdemeanors and non-violent offenses, and are unrelated to the actual amount of time spent in detention. We show that our results are robust to plausible levels of violations of unconfoundedness.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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*Gender Differences in Role Model Effects of Majoring in STEM*

*Determinants of Paths to Administrative Positions for School Teachers*, with Tsai-Yen Han

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCES

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### **Research Assistant**

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|---|-----------|
| Dr. Diego Amador and Professor Kenneth I. Wolpin, Texas Policy Lab, Rice University | 2019-2023 |
| National Education Research Data Archive, National Academy for Educational Research | 2021-2023 |
| Professor Stacey H. Chen, Academia Sinica   | 2015      |
| Dr. Damian Clarke, University of Oxford   | 2014      |

**Research and Evaluation Staff**, Teach for Taiwan

2016-2017

**Instructor:** Graduate Seminar Workshop (2022)

**Teaching Assistant:** Graduate Seminar Workshop (2021), International Economics and Finance (UG, 2019), Macroeconomics (UG, 2018), Microeconomics (UG, 2022-2023)

## CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

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2023: National Academy of Education Research (Taiwan)

2022: University of Houston

2021: National Taiwan University

2019: Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Annual Conference

2017: National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS, Japan)

## SKILLS

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Programming: Julia, Stata, R

Languages: English, Mandarin (native)

## REFERENCES

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**Professor Yinghua He (advisor), Rice University**, [yinghua.he@rice.edu](mailto:yinghua.he@rice.edu)

**Professor Flávio Cunha, Rice University**, [flavio.cunha@rice.edu](mailto:flavio.cunha@rice.edu)

**Dr. Diego Amador, Texas Policy Lab**, [diego.amador@rice.edu](mailto:diego.amador@rice.edu)