

# Weizheng Lai

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Department of Economics  
University of Maryland  
4101D Tydings Hall  
College Park, MD 20742

Website: [laiwz.github.io](https://laiwz.github.io)  
Email: [laiwz@umd.edu](mailto:laiwz@umd.edu)

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of Maryland, 2025 (expected)  
M.A. Economics, University of Maryland, 2021  
B.A. Economics & B.S. Mathematics (with distinction), Wuhan University, 2019

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Economy, China, Public Economics

## RESEARCH

### PUBLISHED OR ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

1. [“China’s Anti-Corruption Campaign and Civil Servant Fever”](#), with Xun Li, accepted by *Journal of Law and Economics*
2. [“The Effect of Education on Voter Turnout in China’s Rural Elections”](#), *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, Vol.221, May 2024
3. [“Housing Market Regulations and Strategic Divorce Propensity in China”](#), with James Alm and Xun Li, *Journal of Population Economics*, Vol.35, July 2022
4. [“Role of Professionalism in the Policy Response to COVID-19: Does a Public Health or Medical Background Help?”](#), with Xun Li, Qianqian Wan, and Xi Chen, *China Economic Review*, Vol.71, February 2022

### WORKING PAPERS

5. [“Human Capital Development under Trade Conflict”](#), with Xun Li
6. [“Adverse Experience and Occupational Outcomes: Evidence from Children of the Cultural Revolution”](#), submitted
7. [“Property Rights, State Capacity, and Social Capacity: The Lasting Impacts of the Taiping Rebellion”](#), with Colin Xu and Li Yang, reject & resubmit at *Journal of Economic Growth*
8. [“Anti-Corruption and Political Trust: Evidence from China”](#), with Ming Fang and Congling Xia, revise & resubmit at *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*

## WORK IN PROGRESS

9. "China's State-Owned Enterprises Reform"
10. "The Impact of Exporting to China on Taiwanese Elections"

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES

### PRESENTATION

2024: Society of Labor Economists, Chinese Economists Society North America Meeting  
2022: University of Queensland  
2021: Global Labor Organization & Renmin University Joint Conference  
Pre-Ph.D.: Chinese Economists Society Meeting (2018, 2019, coauthor presented)

### REFeree SERVICE

*Agribusiness: An International Journal* • *British Medical Journal: Leader* • *China: An International Journal* • *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* • *Journal of Population Economics*

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

RA for Dr. Colin Xu (World Bank), 2022

## TEACHING

### AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Instructor, Intermediate Microeconomics  
TA, Ph.D. Econometrics  
TA, Ph.D. Summer Probability & Statistics Course

## AWARDS

Chiang Ching-kuo Doctoral Fellowship, Chinag Ching-kuo Foundation, 2024 (declined)  
Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship, University of Maryland, 2024  
Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant, University of Maryland, 2024  
2nd Place for Economics Poster Competition, University of Maryland, 2023  
2nd Place for Best 3rd-Year Paper Prize, University of Maryland, 2022  
Melville Ulmer Prize (Best 2nd-Year Paper Prize), University of Maryland, 2022  
Graduation with Distinction, Wuhan University, 2019  
Scholarship for Outstanding Students, Wuhan University, 2015–2019

## SKILLS

Software: Stata, Matlab, R

Language: English, Mandarin Chinese

## REFERENCES

Prof. Allan Drazen (committee co-chair), University of Maryland, [drazen@umd.edu](mailto:drazen@umd.edu)

Prof. Ethan Kaplan (committee co-chair), University of Maryland, [edkaplan@umd.edu](mailto:edkaplan@umd.edu)

Prof. Peter Murrell, University of Maryland, [pmurrell@umd.edu](mailto:pmurrell@umd.edu)