

# Weizheng Lai

Updated: March 2024

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. [“The Effect of Education on Voter Turnout in China’s Rural Elections”](#), accepted by *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*
2. [“China’s Anti-Corruption Campaign and Civil Servant Fever”](#), with Xun Li, accepted by *Journal of Law and Economics*
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. [“Adverse Experience and Occupational Outcomes: Evidence from Children of the Cultural Revolution”](#), submitted
6. [“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*
7. [“Anti-Corruption and Political Trust: Evidence from China”](#), with Ming Fang and Congling Xia, submitted

### WORK IN PROGRESS

8. [“China’s State-Owned Enterprises Reform”](#)
9. [“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 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

Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship, 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)