

Weizheng Lai

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RESEARCH FIELDS

Development Economics, Political Economy, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconometrics

EDUCATION

2025	Ph.D. Economics, University of Maryland
2021	M.A. Economics, University of Maryland
2019	B.A. Economics and B.S. Mathematics, Wuhan University

RESEARCH

PUBLICATIONS

1. “[Anti-Corruption and Political Trust: Evidence from China](#),” with Ming Fang and Congling Xia, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, Vol. 234, June 2025.
2. “[China’s Anticorruption Campaign and Civil Servant Fever](#),” with Xun Li, *Journal of Law and Economics*, Vol. 67, No. 2, May 2024.
3. “[The Effect of Education on Voter Turnout in China’s Rural Elections](#),” *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, Vol. 221, May 2024.
4. “[Housing Market Regulations and Strategic Divorce Propensity in China](#),” with James Alm and Xun Li, *Journal of Population Economics*, Vol. 35, July 2022.
5. “[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

6. “[From Settlement to Stability: The Political Impacts of Relaxing Migration Barriers in China](#),” with Yu Qiu.
7. “[Property Rights, State Capacity, and Social Capacity: The Lasting Impacts of the Taiping Rebellion](#),” with Lixin Colin Xu and Li Yang, revise & resubmit at *Journal of Economic Growth*.
8. “[Adverse Experience and Occupational Outcomes: Evidence from Children of the Cultural Revolution](#)”
9. “[Foreign Economic Relations and Domestic Politics: The Case of Taiwan](#)”

TEACHING

2025	Microeconomics Principles (TA), <i>University of Maryland</i>
2023	Intermediate Microeconomics, <i>University of Maryland</i>
2022–2024	Ph.D. Econometrics (TA), <i>University of Maryland</i>
2022–2024	Ph.D. Probability & Statistics (TA), <i>University of Maryland</i>

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

PRESENTATIONS

2025	West Virginia University, University of Adelaide, University of Bath
2024	Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting, Chinese Economists Society North America Meeting, Urban Economics Association North America Meeting, DC Political Economy Center Workshop, Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, University of Queensland
2022	University of Queensland
2021	Global Labor Organization & Renmin University Joint Conference

REFEREEING

Agribusiness: An International Journal • British Medical Journal: Leader • China: An International Journal • Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization • Journal of Economic Growth • Journal of Population Economics • Oxford Development Studies

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2024	Chiang Ching-kuo Doctoral Fellowship, <i>Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation</i> (declined)
2024	Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship, <i>University of Maryland</i>
2024	Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant, <i>University of Maryland</i>
2023	Award for Economics Poster Competition, <i>University of Maryland</i>
2022	Best Third-Year Paper Prize, <i>University of Maryland</i>
2022	Melville Ulmer Prize (Best Second-Year Paper Prize), <i>University of Maryland</i>
2019	Distinguished Graduate, <i>Wuhan University</i>
2015–2019	Academic Excellence Scholarship, <i>Wuhan University</i>

SKILLS

Software: Stata, Matlab, R

Language: English, Mandarin Chinese

REFERENCES

Prof. Allan Drazen (co-chair)
University of Maryland
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(301) 405-3477

Prof. Ethan Kaplan (co-chair)
University of Maryland
edkaplan@umd.edu
(301) 405-3501

Prof. Peter Murrell
University of Maryland
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(301) 405-3476