

Laura Weiwu

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Positions

Assistant Professor, UC Berkeley Haas School of Business	2025-
Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford Department of Economics	2024-2025

Education

PhD in Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2018-2024
<i>Dissertation:</i> “Essays on Inequality in Cities”	
Committee: David Autor, Dave Donaldson, David Atkin	
BA in Economics, <i>with Honors and Distinction</i> , Stanford University	2014-2018
BS in Applied Mathematics, <i>with Distinction</i> , Stanford University	2014-2018

Research Interests

Labor, Urban/Spatial, Economic History

Working Papers

1. Unequal Access: Racial Segregation and the Distributional Impacts of Interstate Highways in Cities
Revision Requested, American Economic Review
 - Allan Nevins Prize for best dissertation in American history, Economic History Association
 - Best Student Paper Prize, Urban Economics Association
2. Opportunity in Motion: Equilibrium Effects of Infrastructure on Intergenerational Mobility

Works in Progress

3. Measuring Winners and Losers from Increasing Housing Supply (with Vincent Rollet)
4. The Intergenerational Effects of Local Shocks: Income, Migration, and Human Capital (with Martha Stinson and Sean Wang)
5. Changing Intergenerational Mobility in the Mid-20th Century: Evidence from Newly Linked Administrative Data (with Martha Stinson)

Other Papers

- Intergenerational Linkages between Historical IRS 1040 Data and the Numident: 1964-1979 Cohorts
(with Martha Stinson)
Census Bureau Center for Economic Studies (CES) Technical Note

Fellowships and Awards

Best Graduate TA of the Year (Top 3), MIT Economics	2024
Institute for Humane Studies Fellowship	2023
C. Lowell Harriss Dissertation Fellowship, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy	2023
Graduate Women of Excellence, MIT	2023
Graduate Student Council Teaching Award in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS), <i>one professor or TA from each school</i> , MIT	2021
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship	2018-2023
Department of Economics Graduate Fellowship, MIT	2018-2020
David M. Kennedy Thesis Prize, <i>best thesis in the Social Sciences</i> , Stanford	2018

Firestone Medal, <i>best thesis in Economics</i> , Stanford	2018
Phi Beta Kappa, <i>elected as Junior</i> , Stanford	2017
R. Richard Hodge Undergraduate Scholarship, Stanford	2015-2017

Grants

George and Obie Shultz Fund Grant (x4), MIT Economics	2020, 2023
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Refereeing

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review, American Economic Review: Insights, Econometrica, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Urban Economics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics

Conferences & Seminars

2026	UC Irvine (labor/public), West Coast Spatial Workshop at Stanford, O-Lab Conference on Infrastructure/Housing, UC Berkeley (joint labor & history), Online Spatial and Urban Seminar, UC Santa Cruz (trade & applied micro)
2025	AREUEA-ASSA (discussant), Bocconi (applied micro), LSE (trade/urban), UCLA (trade), Harvard Opportunity Insights seminar, Stanford (labor & history), Chicago-Princeton Spatial Economics Conference, UC Berkeley Haas RE seminar, NYU (trade), Urban Economics Association (North America), NBER Transportation Networks and the Spatial Distribution of Economic Activity, University of Toronto (urban)
2024	Stanford, Stanford GSB, Dartmouth, UC Berkeley Haas, UChicago Booth, UChicago Harris, UPenn Wharton, Boston University, Department of Transportation, Northwestern Kellogg (Strategy RookieFest), Society of Labor Economists, UChicago & Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland Barriers to Economic Opportunity Workshop, Urban Economics Association (Europe), Barcelona Institute for Economics (Urban Workshop), Economic History Association, Northwestern (history), LSE Barriers to Economic Opportunity Workshop, UC Davis (history), UBC Sauder, UC San Diego (trade/spatial), Opportunity Insights Conference, UW Madison (public)
2023	RUSH (Regional/Urban/Spatial/Housing) Brownbag, NBER Economics of Transportation, Urban Economics Association Summer School, NBER Summer Institute: Urban Economics, U.S. Census Bureau, MIT (applied micro), Harvard/Boston University Economic History Workshop, Urban Economics Association (North America),
2022	Urban Economics Association (Europe), Jerusalem Advanced School in Economic Theory for International Economics, Rising Scholars Chicago Booth, U.S. Census Bureau

Teaching

UGBA 180: Intro to Urban Economics, UC Berkeley	Spring 2026
14.662: PhD Labor Economics, TA with David Autor and Nina Roussille, MIT (6.6/7)	Spring 2024

Relevant Past Positions

Economist (part-time), U.S. Census Bureau	2020-2024
Research Assistant to David Autor, MIT	2019
Research Intern at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York	2017
Research Assistant to Rebecca Diamond & Petra Persson, Stanford	2016-2017
Research Intern at the White House's Council of Economic Advisers	2016
Research Assistant to Matthew Gentzkow, Stanford	2015-2016

Other Info

Special Sworn Status Researcher, U.S. Census Bureau	2024-
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Organizing

All-California Labor Economics Conference, Co-Organizer	2025-2026
Berkeley Haas Real Estate and Urban Economics Seminar, Co-Organizer	2025-
RUSH (Regional/Urban/Spatial/Housing) Graduate Brownbag	2022-2023
MIT Mental Health & Peer Support, Co-Founder and Organizer	2019-2024

Last Updated: February 2026