

Letian Yin

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Department of Economics, University of California San Diego

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics , University of California San Diego	2021 - present
M.A. in Economics , University of California San Diego	2023
B.A. in Economics and Finance , Tsinghua University	2021

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Public Economics, Labor Economics, Household Finance

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

“Crowded at Birth: Lasting Effects of Maternity Ward Crowding in California”, with Yuli Xu

We study how overcrowding during a woman’s first childbirth influences both clinical practices and subsequent healthcare choices, using comprehensive administrative records on all California births between 1989 and 2017. Leveraging quasi-random, within-hospital variation in daily number of patients, we find that overcrowding reduces the intensity of medical interventions—such as C-sections, epidurals, inductions, and augmentations—consistent with efforts to relieve physician workload. Despite these adjustments, we find no detectable adverse effects on immediate maternal or infant health. Looking beyond the initial birth, we show that overcrowding does not alter future fertility but significantly increases the likelihood that mothers switch hospitals for subsequent deliveries. We find no systematic patterns in hospital selection, indicating that switching is driven primarily by negative first-birth experiences.

“The Financial Impacts of Pregnancy and Childbirth”, with Lei Ma and Victoria Wang

“The Effect of Social Security’s Full Retirement Age on the Economic Well-Being of Older Americans”

“Infant Health and the Inter-generational Effects of Early Cash Transfers”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

TA for GPCO 404 (Public Economics, Master’s level)	Julie Cullen and Katherine Meckel	2023, 2026
TA for Econ 100B (Intermediate Microeconomics)	Meredith Crane	2023, 2025
TA for Econ 120C (Econometrics)	Yixiao Sun	2024, 2025
TA for GPEC 486 (Chinese Economy, Master’s level)	Barry Naughton	2024, 2025
TA for MGTF 404 (Financial Econometrics, Master’s level)	Rossen Valkanov	2024
TA for Econ 120B (Econometrics)	Maria Candido and Xinwei Ma	2022, 2024
TA for Econ 104 (Behavioral Economics)	James Andreoni	2023

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Professor Katherine Meckel	2023
Research Assistant to Professor Julie Cullen	2022

HONORS AND AWARDS

Travel and Research Grant , University of California San Diego	2024, 2025, 2026
Yankelovich Graduate Research Grant , University of California San Diego	2025
Graduate Student Fellowship , California Policy Lab	2024
Diversity Research Fellowship , University of California San Diego	2024
Summer Research Fellowship , University of California San Diego	2022, 2023
Regent's Fellowship , University of California San Diego	2021 - 2022
National Scholarship , Tsinghua University	2020
Toyota Scholarship , Tsinghua University	2019
Zhang Mingwei Scholarship , Tsinghua University	2018

PRESENTATIONS

2025 - 2026	All-California Labor Economics Conference (poster), UCSD Applied/Development Workshop, SEA Annual Meeting
2024 - 2025	UCSD Applied/Development Workshop, ASHEcon Annual Conference
2023 - 2024	UCSD Applied/Development Workshop

OTHER INFORMATION

Professional Service: Reviewer for Southern California Graduate Conference in Applied Economics (SOCAGE)

Software & Programming: L^AT_EX, R, Stata, Python, and SQL

Languages: English (proficient), Mandarin Chinese (native), Japanese (intermediate, JLPT N2 / CEFR B2)

Last updated: February 2026