LEXIN CAI – Curriculum Vitae

lc973@cornell.edu | https://lexincai.github.io

EDUCATION

Exp 2026 Ph.D. in Economics, Cornell University

2015 M.S. in Social Policy, University of Pennsylvania

2013 B.S. in Public Administration, Renmin University of China

RESEARCH FIELDS

Labor Economics, Public Finance, Economics of Education

WORK IN PROGRESS

"Long-Term Effects of Universal Free School Meal Policies: Evidence from the Community Eligibility Provision"

"Effects of Work Requirements in Means-Tested Programs," (with Pauline Leung and Hyewon Kim)

"Work Requirements in SNAP and Postsecondary Enrollment," (with Meredith Welch)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022-2024	Research Assistant for Zhuan Pei, Cornell University
2021-2022	Research Assistant for Pauline Leung, Cornell University
2018-2020	Research Analyst, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
2016-2018	Research Associate, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
2015-2016	Research Intern, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
2014-2015	Research Intern, World Wildlife Fund

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2022 Teaching Assistant, Behavioral Economics and Public Policy, Cornell

University

Fall 2021 Teaching Assistant, Economics of the Public Sector, Cornell University

GRANTS

2024 Policy Impacts Early-Career Scholars Grant (\$10,000) 2024 Labor Economics Small Grant, Cornell University (\$2,500)

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

2023–2024 Jain Family Institute - Brooks School Fellow

2022 Outstanding TA Award, Cornell Brooks School of Public Policy

2020-present Sage Fellowship, Cornell University

2014 Dean's Merit Award, University of Pennsylvania

2012 Global KU Scholarship, Korea University

2010–2013 National Scholarship, Renmin University of China (x3)

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

2025 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Annual Conference*,

Midwestern Economic Association (MEA) Annual Conference*, Policy

Impacts Conference*

2024 Association for Public Policy and Management (APPAM) Fall Research

Conference, Cornell Labor Work in Progress Seminar

2023 Cornell Labor Work in Progress Seminar

* scheduled

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SERVICE

2022-present	Executive Board Member, Diversity in Cornell Economics
2022-present	Mentor, Cornell Graduate Student Association for Economics
2022–2024	Student Representative, Cornell Economics Diversity and Inclusion
	Committee

2021–2022 Social Co-chair, Cornell Graduate Students in Public Policy 2014–2015 Co-founder, Wonk Tank, Penn Wharton Public Policy Initiative

OTHER

Programming Stata, R, SAS, LaTeX

Languages English (fluent), Mandarin (native), Cantonese (fluent), Korean (basic)

Data clearance U.S. Census Bureau Special Sworn Status

Citizenship U.S. Citizen

REFERENCES

Zhuan Pei (Chair) Associate Professor, Cornell University

zhuan.pei@cornell.edu

Maria D. Fitzpatrick Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Cornell University

mdf98@cornell.edu

Pauline Leung Assistant Professor, Cornell University

pleung@cornell.edu

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