

Li Zhang

ROCKWOOL Foundation Berlin
Berlin, Germany

lz@rfberlin.com
<https://lizhangecon.github.io>

Employment

ROCKWOOL Foundation Berlin – Institute for the Economy and the Future of Work

Postdoctoral Fellow July 2025 –

Humboldt University of Berlin

Visiting Scholar July 2025 –

Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration, University College London

Postdoctoral Research Fellow July 2024 – June 2025

Education

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Ph.D. in Economics July 2024

Renmin University of China

M.A., Economics June 2019

B.A., Economics June 2017

Research Interests

Labor Economics, Innovation, Development Economics, Economics of Education

Research

Publications

Zhang, Li, Lunyu Xie, & Xinye Zheng (2023). Across a Few Prohibitive Miles: The Impact of the Anti-Poverty Relocation Program in China. *Journal of Development Economics*, 160, 102945.

Working Papers

Directed Technical Change Under Regulation: Evidence from the Chinese Auto Industry (with Christian Dustmann). *Job Market Paper*.

Migration Restrictions and the Migrant-Native Wage Gap: The Roles of Wage Setting and Sorting (with Naijia Guo, Rongjie Zhang, Ben Zou). Revision requested by *American Economic Review*. Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=5092829>.

Growing Without Divergence: The Impact of Innovation on Low- and High-skilled Migration in China (with Suqin Ge, Naijia Guo, Zibin Huang, and Junsen Zhang). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=5329631>.

Is a Better School Better for All? Evidence from Elite Education in China (with Lunyu Xie, Dongli Yu). Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=4038574>.

- Honorable Mentions, 2021 CES Annual Conference Best Student Paper

Trade Liberalization and Intergenerational Education Mobility: Evidence from China (with Jingxuan Du). Revision requested by ***Labour Economics***. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=5274377>.

Rural Labor Allocation, Risk Insurance, and Temporary Migration (with Yucheng Wang)

Work in Progress

Co-Ethnic Networks, Ethnic-Specific Amenities, and Wages of Immigrants (with Christian Dustmann)

Job Dynamics and Life-Cycle Wage Growth (with Naijia Guo, Rongjie Zhang, and Ben Zou)

Conference and Seminar Presentations

- 2025:** BSoE Job Market Workshop (scheduled); RFBerlin Brownbag Seminar; BAMS-BSoE Welcome Event; RFBerlin-CReAM Workshop
- 2024:** AASLE Annual Conference; The Chinese University of Hong Kong; RFBerlin-CReAM Workshop; Asian Meeting of Econometric Society; SOLE Annual Conference; RFBerlin Spring Workshop
- 2023:** European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society; Hong Kong Economic Association Biennial Conference (session chair); AASLE Annual Conference; Jinan University; The Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society; China Economics Annual Conference; WEAI International Conference
- 2022:** AASLE Annual Conference
- 2021:** Beijing Normal University; Asia Impact Evaluation Conference; Symposium on Contemporary Labor Economics; HCEO-CEP-CREC Virtual SSSI; The China Meeting of the Econometric Society; CES Annual Conference (session chair)
- 2020:** AAEA Virtual Meeting; Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty (cancelled)
- 2019:** International Symposium on Contemporary Labor Economics; Sustainable Development Goals; International Conference on China's Development Theory; Conference on Micro-data and Economics Innovation
- 2018:** Annual Conference of CESA

Teaching Assistant

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

ECON 3430 Public Finance	Fall 2022–23
ECON 1010 Perspectives in Economics (gave two tutorial sessions)	Fall 2021–22
ECON 3320 Asia-Pacific Economies	Spring 2020–21

Honors and Awards

Best Thesis Award, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2025

The CUHK Reaching Out Award, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2023

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme, Research Grants Council of Hong Kong, 2020 – 2024

CUHK Vice-Chancellor HKPFS Scholarship, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2020 – 2024
Outstanding Graduate, Renmin University of China, 2019
National Scholarship, Ministry of Education of the PRC, 2018, 2019
Graduate Student Grant for Overseas Academic Activities, Renmin University of China, 2018
Graduate Student Fellowship, Renmin University of China, 2017 – 2019
Meritorious Winner, Interdisciplinary Contest in Modeling, 2016

Journal Reviewer

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Journal of Development Economics, Labour Economics, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Development Studies, China Economic Review, Population Research and Policy Review

Services

Organizing Committee: RFBerlin Conference on Health and Economic Well-Being
Conference Reviewer: RFBerlin Migration Forum 2026

Skills and Language

Software: Stata, Python, MATLAB, Julia, R, LaTeX
Language: Chinese (Native, Mandarin and Cantonese), English (Proficient)

References

Christian Dustmann
Professor of Economics
University College London
Director, ROCKWOOL Foundation Berlin
(RFBerlin)
Director, Centre for Research and Analysis
of Migration (CReAM)
Email: c.dustmann@ucl.ac.uk

Junsen Zhang
Distinguished University Professor
School of Economics
Zhejiang University
Emeritus Professor
Department of Economics
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Email: jszhang@cuhk.edu.hk

Naijia Guo
Associate Professor
Department of Economics
The University of Hong Kong
Email: njguo@hku.hk

Ben Zou
Associate Professor of Economics
Mitch Daniels School of Business
Purdue University
Email: zou136@purdue.edu