

Li Zhang

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Education

2023	Ph.D. in Economics, The University of Alabama
2017	M.A. in Economics, University of Missouri-Columbia
2011	M.A. in Economics, Xi'an Jiaotong University
2006	B.A. in Economics, Northwest University of Politics & Law

Current position

7/23 — *Visiting Assistant Professor*, Dept. of Economics, Lafayette College, Easton, PA

Research interests

Applied Microeconomics; Economics of Charity & Social Inequality; Experimental Economics; Public Economics; Industrial Organization; Behavioral Economics

Teaching interests

Principle and Intermediate Microeconomics and Macroeconomics; Experimental Economics; Behavioral Economics; Public Economics; Introductory Statistics, Econometrics; Industrial Organization; Mathematics, Game theory and Introductory Finance

Publications, working papers& works in progress

JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. An Examination of the Effect of Inequality on Lotteries for Funding Public Goods (joint with Cary Deck & Christopher Oconnor) *Journal of Public Economic Theory*, 24 (2022), 733—755.

WORKING PAPERS

1. A Structural Approach for Estimating the Value of Public Goods in a Cause-related Market *Job Market Paper*

People often pay a premium for products linked to charity due to the belief that part or all the revenue generated from such purchases is a public good. However, accurately quantifying the value of public goods is challenging due to identification issues. This study aims to address this challenge by leveraging two sets of bidding data from eBay on charity and non-charity auctions of identical products. I employ a nonparametric approach to identify bidders' public goods values within an independent private values paradigm, providing a unique and valuable insight into the motivations behind charitable giving through auction data. Specifically, by using the variation in donation percentages in the charity auction set, this study develops structural altruistic estimators to uncover each bidder's latent private value, which is a combination of the value of the auction item and the linked public good. In the non-charity auction set, the latent private value of each bidder is identified based on the auction item alone. Then the difference between the latent private values of the two sets is used to determine the value placed on charity-linked products, assuming that the two sets have the same underlying distribution of private values on the auction item. The results show that on average, bidders bid 6% more in charity auctions compared to non-charity auctions, driven primarily by the warm glow of giving, the joy from the act of giving.

2. The Price Elasticity of Charitable Giving: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis (joint with Michael K. Price & John A. List)
3. Individual-level Price Elasticity of Charitable Giving: Insights from Large-scale Field Experiments (joint with Shachar Kariv, John A. List, Daniel J. Lee, & Michael K. Price)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. Why are People Willing to Pay More for Charity-linked Products? (joint with Michael K. Price)
2. Inequality's Paradox: Unraveling the Lottery Mechanism's Charitable Giving Enigma
3. The Causal Effect of Crime Rates on Birth Outcomes (joint with Sayorn Chin)
4. The Impact of a Charity Rating System on Donor Behavior and Financial Assets of Charitable Organizations (joint with Daniel Lee & Tome Guerreiro D O Salgueiro)

Teaching experience

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Fall 23 Principles of Economics (3 sections)

GRADUATE TEACHING INSTRUCTOR, THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Spring 23 Intermediate Microeconomics (2 sections)

Fall 22 Intermediate Microeconomics

Spring 22 Intermediate Microeconomics

Fall 21 Intermediate Microeconomics

Summer 21	Intermediate Microeconomics
Fall 20	Intermediate Microeconomics
Spring 2019	Business Finance (Lab)

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT, THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Spring 2021	Sports Economics, Urban Economics, & Intermediate Microeconomics
Spring 20	Intermediate Macroeconomics (2 sections)
Fall 19	Principles of Microeconomics and Macroeconomics
Spring 19	Principles of Macroeconomics and Microeconomics
Fall 18	Intermediate Macroeconomics (2 Sections)
Spring 18	Intermediate Microeconomics (2 sections)
Fall 17	Real Estate Appraisal; Intro Financial Inst, & Mkts

Conference Presentations

2023	Science of Philanthropy Initiative Conference; University of Chicago
2022	Science of Philanthropy Initiative Conference; University of Indiana
2022	Southern Economic Association 91st Annual Meeting, Fort, Florida
2022 Fall	EFLS brown bag, the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama
2022	Public Choice Society Meeting, Nashville, Tennessee
2022 Spring	EFLS brown bag, the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama
2021	Southern Economic Association 90th Annual Meeting. Houston, Texas
2020	EFLS brown bag, the University of Alabama. Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Appointments held

7/11 — 9/13	<i>Manager of Personal Credit Department</i> , China Everbright Bank-Xi'an Branch, Xi'an, China
9/06 — 4/09	<i>Credit Officer</i> , Shaanxi Rural Credit Cooperatives Union, Xi'an, China

Scholarships, honours & awards

2023	Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Award, Dept. of Economics, Finance, and Legal Studies, The University of Alabama
2022	Semi Finalist, Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition, The University of Alabama
2022	Summer Research Grant, Dept. of Economics, Finance and Legal Studies, The University of Alabama
2021	Summer Research Grant, Dept. of Economics, Finance and Legal Studies, The University of Alabama
2013 — 2017	Graduate Student Assistantship, Dept. of Economics, Finance and Legal Studies, The University of Alabama

Programming and software

Proficient in: R, z-Tree, Stata, and Latex

Professional memberships

American Economic Association; Southern Economic Association

References

Michael K. Price (Dissertation Chair)
Dwight Harrigan Endowed Faculty Fellow in Natural Resource Economics
Professor of Economics
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