

# QINGYUAN CHAI

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston, MA, May 2025 (expected)  
Dissertation Title: *Three Essays on Labor Economics*  
Dissertation Committee: Kevin Lang, Daniele Paserman, and Raymond Fisman  
  
B.A., Mathematics and Economics, Fudan University, Shanghai, China, 2019  
  
Exchange Student, University of California, Berkeley, CA, 2017

## FIELDS OF INTEREST

Labor Economics, Development Economics

## WORKING PAPERS

“[Housing Price, Internal Migration, and Intergenerational Mobility](#),” October 2024. Job Market Paper.  
“[Obsolescence Rents: Teamsters, Truckers, and Impending Innovations](#),” (with Costas Cavounidis, Kevin Lang, and Raghav Malhotra), September 2024, NBER Working Paper No.31743, *submitted*.  
“[Gender Imbalance, Marriage Stability, and Divorce Rate: Evidence from China](#),” (with Shiyi Sun and Yuan Zhang), August 2024, *submitted*.  
“[The World Bank and China: Comparing the Impacts of Their Development Projects in Africa](#),” (with Zhongyi Tang), May 2024.

## PUBLICATIONS

““[Going global](#)’ and FDI inflows in China: ‘One Belt & One Road’ initiative as a quasi-natural experiment,” (with Huiyao Chen and Changyuan Luo) *The World Economy*, (2019) 42: 1654-1672.  
“[US Outward FDI: Is China a Special Host Country?](#)” (with Changyuan Luo and Chengxue Mao) *Journal of Financial Research (in Chinese)*, (2018) 462: 72-90.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

“Developing Credibility in Development Economics” (with Kevin Lang)  
“The Potency of the Pill: ED Medications and Marriage Stability” (with Daniele Paserman)  
“Hope or Trap: Navigating the Dual Impact of Cotton Cultivation on Rural Girls’ Development” (with Fei Teng and Yuan Zhang)  
“Siblings and Migration”

## REFeree EXPERIENCE

*Journal of Political Economy*, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, *Population Research and Policy Review*

## **PRESENTATIONS**

North American Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society (ASSA/NAWM-ES), 2025  
NBER conference on Fertility and Declining Population Growth, 2024  
Asia Meeting of the Econometric Society (AMES), 2024  
The Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC), 2023  
Asia Meeting of the Econometric Society (AMES), 2023

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

Dean's Fellowship, Boston University 2019-2024

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

Research Assistant for Prof. Kevin Lang, Boston University, 01/2022-present  
Research Assistant for Prof. Linh T. Tô, Boston University, 12/2020-01/2021  
Research Assistant for Prof. Dilip Mookherjee, Boston University, 05/2021-08/2021  
Research Assistant for Prof. Frank Schilbach, MIT, 05/2018-09/2018  
Research Assistant for Prof. Ulrike Malmendier, University of California, Berkeley, 09/2017-04/2018

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Teaching Assistant, Behavioral Economics, Boston University, Fall 2020 and Fall 2021  
Teaching Assistant, Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis, Boston University, Fall 2021  
Teaching Assistant, Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis, Boston University, Spring 2021

## **DEPARTMENT SERVICE**

Graduate Economics Association, Boston University, Officer 2021-2022  
Co-organizer of Empirical Micro Reading Group, Boston University, 2022-2023  
Website maintainer for Theoretical Research in Development Economics (ThReD), 2022-present  
Conference Coordinator for Society of Economics of the Household (SEHO), 2021

**COMPUTER SKILLS:** STATA, MATLAB, SAS, LaTeX, R, Python, ArcGIS, Google Earth Engine, Mathematica

**CITIZENSHIP/VISA STATUS:** China/F1

## **REFERENCES**

### **Professor Kevin Lang**

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### **Professor Daniele Paserman**

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### **Housing Price, Internal Migration, and Intergenerational Mobility (Job Market Paper)**

This paper investigates how housing costs affect intergenerational mobility in China by influencing internal migration. To address the endogeneity of housing prices, I employ an instrumental variables approach, exploiting the Housing Purchase Restriction policy as a natural experiment. This policy limited the number of properties households could purchase in selected prefectures, thereby slowing price growth. I find that higher housing costs deter migration, with a more pronounced effect on individuals from disadvantaged families. As a result, these individuals earn lower incomes than their counterparts from more affluent backgrounds. Therefore, higher housing costs reduce intergenerational mobility. These findings align with a migration decision model in which housing costs place a disproportionate burden on individuals from disadvantaged families. A structural approach allows me to distinguish among destinations and evaluate the effects of various housing policies. In contrast to the aggregate-level reduced-form results, I find that the impact of housing costs varies across destinations. Providing rent subsidies to migrants in megacities increases migration more among advantaged children than disadvantaged ones, thereby exacerbating income disparities. In contrast, policies that either target disadvantaged children or offer non-targeted subsidies in non-megacities help increase migration for disadvantaged children and improve intergenerational mobility.

### **Obsolescence Rents: Teamsters, Truckers, and Impending Innovations**

*(with Costas Cavounidis, Kevin Lang, and Raghav Malhotra)*

Motivated by the advent of self-driving trucks, which will dramatically reduce demand for truck drivers, we consider large, permanent shocks to individual occupations whose arrival date is uncertain. Using a bare-bones overlapping generations model, we examine an occupation facing obsolescence. Workers are compensated for entering the occupation - receiving what we dub *obsolescence rents* - with fewer and older workers remaining in the occupation. We investigate the market for teamsters at the dawn of the automotive truck as an à propos parallel to truckers themselves. As predicted by the model, as widespread adoption of trucks crested the horizon, teamster wages rose, the number of teamsters fell, and the occupation became ‘grayer’. Older workers became more likely to enter and less likely to exit work as teamsters. As permitted, but not required, by the model, the number of older teamsters grew as a fraction of older workers. We obtain similar findings for current occupations threatened by computerization.

### **Gender Imbalance, Marriage Stability, and Divorce Rate: Evidence from China**

*(with Shiyi Sun and Yuan Zhang)*

The deficit of men or women in a regional marriage market is a commonly observed phenomenon stemming from factors such as “Missing Girls” at birth, immigration, and higher mortality rates among men due to war. However, the impact of this deficit on marriage stability remains not well understood. In this paper, using provincial, census, and household survey data in China, we find that a higher male-to-female ratio increases divorce rates. Further analyses support the hypothesis that this impact is primarily driven by married women having more options outside their marriage. The effect is more pronounced in economies with greater income inequality, where there are more wealthy prospective partners. These findings highlight the significance of gender balance in sustaining stable marriages and uncover a new contributing factor to the escalating divorce rates in China.