

QINGYUAN CHAI

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Personal Website: <https://qychai.github.io>

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Boston University 06/2025 (expected)
B.A. in Mathematical Economics (Highest Honors), Fudan University 06/2019

Fields of Interest

Empirical Micro, Labor Economics, Applied Econometrics

Skills

Technical Skills: Stata, MATLAB, SAS, R, Python, LaTeX, Google Earth Engine, ArcGIS, Mathematica
Language: English (fluent), Chinese (native)

Research Experience

Ph.D. Researcher, Boston University, Boston, MA 09/2019-06/2025 (Expected)

- Constructed econometric models using causal inference methods, including the instrumental variable (IV) approach, stacked difference-in-differences (stacked DID), and propensity score matching (PSM)
- Analyzed data from widely used datasets for labor studies, such as CPS, ACS, full-count censuses, LFS (UK), and Newspapers.com. Found patterns about workers' labor market behaviors facing technology shocks
- Analyzed a large commercial insurance dataset of over 273 million unique patients and found patterns about impacts of ED drugs on divorces
- Built and estimated a structural model to study the impact of housing prices on workers' migration behaviors, focusing on workers' fundamental preferences
- Conducted counterfactual simulations to evaluate potential housing policy changes

RA for Professor Yuan Zhang, Fudan University 01/2023-present

- Utilized Python and OCR programs to transform images into digital datasets
- Generated railway access measures and geographic characteristics using ArcGIS and Google Earth Engine

RA for Professor Frank Schilbach, MIT 05/2018-09/2018

- Designed a field experiment on the impacts of alcohol on people's behaviors
- Collaborated with 10 sales representatives to assess the functionality and suitability of alcohol-testing equipment for a field experiment, evaluating their capabilities and limitations for the study's specific goals

Selected Working Papers and Publications

[Housing Prices, Internal Migration, and Intergenerational Mobility](#)

[Obsolescence Rents: Teamsters, Truckers, and Impending Innovations](#) NBER Working Paper No.31743
(with Cavounidis, C., Lang, K., and Malhotra, R.)

[World Bank vs. China: Comparing the Impacts of Their Development Projects in Africa](#) (with Tang, Z.)
[“Going global” and FDI inflows in China](#) *The World Economy* (2019) (with Luo, C. and Chen, H.)

Presentations

ASSA/NAWM- ES 2025 (scheduled), NBER Conference on Fertility 2024, Asia Meeting of the Econometric Society (AMES) 2024, The Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) 2023

Teaching Experience

Behavioral Economics, Teaching Fellow, Boston University 09/2020-12/2020, 09/2021-12/2021
Macroeconomics, Teaching Fellow, Boston University 02/2021-05/2021

Department Service

Graduate Economics Association, Boston University, Officer 05/2021 - 05/2022
• Organized more than 10 academic and non-academic events
Website maintainer for Theoretical Research in Development Economics (ThReD) 01/2022 - present