

QINGYUAN CHAI

Email: qchai@bu.edu | Phone: (267) 593-0456 | Address: 267 Bay State Road, Boston, MA, 02134
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: R, Python, Stata, MATLAB, SAS, LaTeX, Google Earth Engine, ArcGIS, Mathematica
Causal Inference: DID, Synthetic DID, PSM, IV, RDD, A/B Testing
Structural Approaches: Demand Estimation, BLP, Policy Simulations

Research Experience

Housing Prices, Internal Migration, and Intergenerational Mobility Job Market Paper

Presentation: ASSA/NAWM- ES 2025 (scheduled)

- Developed a discrete choice structural model to analyze workers' preferences and conducted counterfactual simulations to evaluate different housing policies
- Automated and optimized data processing, cutting processing time by 40%
- Employed the instrumental variable (IV) approach
- Both reduced-form analysis and data simulations suggest that higher housing costs disproportionately deter migration among workers from disadvantaged backgrounds, exacerbating existing inequality.

Obsolescence Rents: Teamsters, Truckers, and Impending Innovations

NBER Working Paper No.31743 (with Cavounidis, C., Lang, K., and Malhotra, R.)

- Processed and cleaned full-count census data comprising over 200 million observations
- Conducted data integration across multiple labor datasets (CPS, ACS, LFS, Newspapers.com)
- Employed the difference-in-differences (DID) approach and found that workers earn a wage premium in anticipation of technological shocks, and the age composition of the workforce is a better indicator of an industry's prospects than wage levels

World Bank vs. China: Comparing the Impacts of Their Development Projects in Africa

(with Tang, Z.)

Presentation: The Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) 2023

- Processed large datasets on aid projects spanning more than 165 countries
- Employed stacked difference-in-differences (stacked DID) and propensity score matching (PSM)
- Documented that Chinese infrastructure projects are more effective than those by the World Bank, and standard factors in the literature do not fully explain this disparity.

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

Presentation: NBER Conference on Fertility 2024, Asia Meeting of the Econometric Society (AMES) 2024

- Cleaned, incorporated, and analyzed data of over 20 million observations
- Used the instrumental variable (IV) approach and found that high male-to-female ratios increase women's divorce rates

The Potency of the Pill: ED Medications and Marriage Stability

- Analyzed a large commercial insurance dataset of over 273 million unique patients
- Used the instrumental variable (IV) approach and found that ED drugs increase gray divorces among men

Department Service

Co-President of the Graduate Economics Association	05/2021 - 05/2022
--	-------------------

- Organized more than 10 academic and non-academic events

Maintained website for Theoretical Research in Development Economics (ThReD)	01/2022 - present
--	-------------------