

# Meiqing Ren

Department of Economics

University of Illinois at Chicago

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## EDUCATION

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**University of Illinois at Chicago**

*Ph.D., Economics*

Expected May 2023

*Chicago, IL*

**Chair:** Dr. Darren Lubotsky

**Committee Members:** Dr. So Yoon Ahn, Dr. Ben Feigenberg, Dr. Yiqun Chen, Dr. Joanna Lahey

**Baylor University**

*M.S., Economics*

May 2017

*Waco, TX*

**Sun Yat-Sen University**

*B.M., Financial Management*

June 2015

*Guangzhou, China*

## FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

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**Primary Fields:** Labor Economics, Health Economics

**Secondary Fields:** Entrepreneurship, Gender Economics

## WORKING PAPERS

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***Job Market Paper:***

**“Is Health Insurance a Barrier to Women’s Entrepreneurship? Evidence from State Infertility Insurance Mandates in the United States”**

*Abstract:* One in seven couples in the United States experiences infertility. Despite improved medical technology to treat infertility problems, infertility treatments remain prohibitively expensive. I study the effects of infertility insurance mandates in the United States on women’s entrepreneurship, exploiting state-level policy changes that require employer-sponsored health insurance plans to cover infertility treatments. Using a triple difference estimation strategy and data from the March Current Population Survey, I find that women of later childbearing age (30-45) are less likely to be self-employed as a result of the mandates. Further investigation shows a larger effect for women lacking alternative health insurance coverage through a spouse. My results provide evidence of entrepreneurship lock, implying that a tightened link between health insurance and wage-and-salary employment could discourage entrepreneurship.

**“Preschool and Child Health: Evidence from China’s Subsidized Child Care Program”**

Revise and Resubmit, [Economics of Education Review](#)

**“Gender Wage Gap, Bargaining Power, and Charitable Giving of Households”**

with [So Yoon Ahn](#). Revise and Resubmit, [Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics](#)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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**“Physician Visits to Street Hunt: Unintended Consequences of Hydrocodone Rescheduling”**

with Zheyuan (Damien) Dong

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Research Assistant to Dr. So Yoon Ahn**

*University of Illinois at Chicago*

Aug 2018 – Aug 2020

*Chicago, IL*

**Research Assistant to Dr. James Henderson**

*Baylor University*

Aug 2015 – May 2017

*Waco, TX*

**Research Assistant to Dr. Shanmin Li**

*Sun Yat-Sen University*

Jan 2014 – May 2014

*Guangzhou, China*

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Course Instructor

Health Economics, UIC Undergraduate (**Evaluation 4.65/5**)

Spring 2021

International Economics, UIC Undergraduate (**Evaluation 4.9/5**)

Summer 2020

### Teaching Assistant

Principles of Macroeconomics, UIC Undergraduate

Spring 2022

Freakonomics, UIC Undergraduate

Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2021, Fall 2022

Intermediate Econometrics, Baylor Undergraduate

Fall 2016, Spring 2017

Microeconomics, Sun Yat-Sen Undergraduate

Spring 2015

## AWARDS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

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Illinois Economic Association **Ph.D. Student Paper Competition Winner**, IEA

2022

Mercatus Center Oskar Morgenstern Fellowship, George Mason University

2022

Graduate Sylvia L. Saffrin Award (**Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching**), UIC

2022

Graduate Winifred Geldard Memorial Award (**Outstanding Third Year Paper**), UIC

2021

Graduate College Student Presenter Award, UIC

2021

Graduate Student Council Conference Award, UIC

2021

Hankamer School of Business the Outstanding Graduate Award, Baylor

2017

Hankamer School of Business Tuition Scholarship Awards, Baylor

2015 – 2017

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (\* scheduled)

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Eastern Economic Association (EEA) 49th Annual Conference\*

Feb 2023

Rising Scholars Conference at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business

Nov 2022

Illinois Economics Association (IEA) 51st Annual Meetings

Nov 2022

International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE) Annual Conference

Jun 2022

Annual Canadian Economics Association (CEA) Meetings

May 2022

ASSA/AEA Virtual Annual Meeting (Poster)

Jan 2022

Southern Economic Association (SEA) 91st Annual Meeting

Nov 2021

Illinois Economics Association (IEA) 50th Annual Meetings

Oct 2021

The Society for the Study of Economic Inequality (ECINEQ) Meeting

Jul 2021

Annual Canadian Economics Association (CEA) Meetings

Jun 2021

Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society (AMES)

Jun 2021

International Association for Applied Econometrics (IAAE) Annual Conference

Jun 2021

International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE) Annual Conference

Jun 2021

APPAM Student Research Online Seminar Series

May 2021

Essen Health Conference

May 2021

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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### Memberships

American Economic Association (2021&2022), Canadian Economics Association (2021&2022), International Association for Feminist Economics (2021&2022), The Econometric Society (2021), Southern Economic Association (2021)

### Services

International Association for Feminist Economics Online Events Committee, IAFFE	2022 – 2023
Graduate Student Seminar Co-organizer, UIC	2019 – 2020
Graduate Student Mentor, UIC	2018 – 2020

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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### Programming

Proficient in Stata and LaTeX; experienced in R, ArcGIS, MATLAB, and SQL

### Languages

English (fluent), Mandarin (native)

## REFERENCES

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### Dr. Darren Lubotsky

*Acting Head and Director of Graduate Studies; Associate Professor*

Department of Economics, UIC

[lubotsky@uic.edu](mailto:lubotsky@uic.edu)

### Dr. Georgios Karras

*Professor*

Department of Economics, UIC

[gkarras@uic.edu](mailto:gkarras@uic.edu)

### Dr. Joanna Lahey

*Associate Professor*

The Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M

[jlahey@tamu.edu](mailto:jlahey@tamu.edu)

### Dr. So Yoon Ahn

*Assistant Professor*

Department of Economics, UIC

[syahn@uic.edu](mailto:syahn@uic.edu)