

Rachel Y. L. Fung

Industrial Relations Section
Louis A. Simpson International Building
Princeton, NJ 08544
+1 (609) 933 6907 | ylfung@princeton.edu

Education

PhD in Economics Princeton University	Expected 2024
MA in Economics Princeton University	2020
MSc in Econometrics and Mathematical Economics, <i>Distinction</i> The London School of Economics and Political Science	2018
BSc in Econometrics and Mathematical Economics, <i>First Class Honours</i> The London School of Economics and Political Science	2017

Teaching and Research Fields

Primary fields: Labour, Public economics

Working Papers

‘Welfare Reform and Fertility’, October 2022

This paper studies the fertility effects of 1990s-era welfare reform in the US, which ended unconditional cash assistance to low-income mothers. I show that individuals more likely to be on welfare pre-reform and thus more likely to be affected experienced larger fertility declines after the reform relative to those less likely. Moreover, this effect is larger in states with more generous pre-reform welfare payments. A back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests that welfare reform in the 1990s may explain over 24% of the decline in overall U.S. fertility between 1992 and 2000. These results have implications for current debates on reinstituting unconditional cash benefits through the Child Tax Credit.

Work in Progress

‘The Power of Tubal Sterilisation: Permanent Contraception and Female Labour Supply’

‘Heterogeneous Effects of Reproductive Policies’

‘The Effect of Mandated HIV/AIDS Education on Fertility and Marriage’, with Jessica Min

Fellowships and Awards

Clarence J. Hicks Memorial Fellowship	2023 – 2024
NBER Gender in the Economy Fellowship Runner-up	2023
Graduate Student Fellow, Griswold Center for Economic Policy Studies	2022 – 2023
Graduate Student Teaching Prize, Department of Economics, Princeton University	2022
Princeton University Graduate Fellowship	2019 – 2022
J. Edward Lundy *40 Fellowship for Economics	2018 – 2019
Centaline Charity Fund Scholarship	2015 – 2018

Teaching Experience

ECO 981 Junior Independent Work, Princeton University Assistant in Instruction	2023-2024
ECO 313 Econometric Applications, Princeton University Assistant in Instruction	Spring 2023
ECO 312 Econometrics: A Mathematical Approach, Princeton University Assistant in Instruction	Fall 2020, Spring 2022
ECO 302 Econometrics, Princeton University Assistant in Instruction	Spring 2021, Fall 2021
ECO 331 Economics of the Labor Market, Princeton University Assistant in Instruction	Fall 2020, Fall 2021
EC210 Macroeconomic Principles, The London School of Economics and Political Science Graduate Teaching Assistant	2017 – 2018

Research Experience

Research Assistant to Professor Corinne Low	2020 – 2021
Research Assistant to Professors Natalie Bau and Adrien Matray	2019 – 2020
Research Assistant to Professor Maria Micaela Sviatschi	2019

Professional Activities

Referee	<i>American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Young Economist Symposium</i>
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Languages

Cantonese Chinese (Native), English (Native), Mandarin Chinese (Native)