

Rouzhi Liang

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Education

Ph.D. Economics, Southern Methodist University	2026
M.S. Economics, University of Wisconsin–Madison	2018
B.A. Economics, Beihang University	2016

Research Interests

Macroeconomics and Growth, Entrepreneurship, Family Economics, Culture

Working Papers

Bequests, Fertility, and Entrepreneurship (*Job Market Paper*) ([PDF](#))

This paper studies how parental fertility and bequest decisions influence children's ability to become entrepreneurs in the presence of financial frictions.

Individualism and Innovation: Unraveling Culture's Influence Across Time ([PDF](#))

This paper examines the impact of individualism on innovation and economic development over time, both cross-country and within the US.

Research in Progress

Finance, Demographic Transition, and Structural Change

This project examines how the interaction between financial frictions and demographic transitions influences structural change.

Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Wookun Kim 2020

- Processed and analyzed NASA satellite-based pollution data using Python and QGIS

Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Michael Sposi 2022

- Collected and cleaned world import and export data
- Used Stata to compute descriptive statistics

Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Daniel L. Millimet

- Collected and cleaned Census data
- Constructed and replicated county-level trade shock data

Teaching Experience

Instructor: Intermediate Macroeconomics (SMU, Summer 2023)

Teaching Assistant: Macroeconomic Theory I, Microeconomic Theory I&II, Intermediate Microeconomics, Game Theory, International Economics

Conference and Seminar Presentations

Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting <i>Bequests, Fertility, and Entrepreneurship</i> (Graduate Student Award)	2024
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting <i>Individualism and Innovation: Unraveling Culture's Influence Across Time</i>	2023
SMU Research and Innovation Week <i>Bequests, Fertility, and Entrepreneurship</i>	2023

Skills

Programming	Python, Stata, QGIS, L ^A T _E X
Language	English (Fluent), Mandarin (Native)

Fellowship & Awards

Provost's Doctoral Candidacy Fellowship, Southern Methodist University (2023-Present)
Graduate Fellowship, Southern Methodist University (2019-2023)

Leadership & Outreach

SMU Dedman Graduate Student Assembly, Representative for the Economics Department (2023-2025)
SMU Dedman Graduate Student Assembly, President (2025-2026)
Moody School Graduate Student Advisory Member from Dedman College (2025-2026)

References

Dr. Ömer Özak (Advisor)
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