

# Rowan Shi

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## Summary

- research economist seeking to create tangible positive social impact
- statistical and technical skills with causal inference, quantitative computing, and large administrative micro-datasets
- experienced communicator, from writing reports of all lengths, presenting research, and teaching classes
- enthusiastic collaborator, enjoying team or partner projects such as co-authored papers
- detail-oriented and organized, from self-directing projects and serving as a large lecture's course organizer

## Education

**PhD (expected) in Economics**, *Princeton University* 2020  
**BA in Mathematics and Economics**, *University of California, Berkeley* 2014

## Research Projects

**Evaluating tax harmonization policy in the European Union**, *with co-author* 2016 -

- predicted the effects of tax reform using mathematical simulation modelling (structural general equilibrium)
- fit the spatial model to data on EU corporate taxes, national expenditure, and other aggregate variables
- wrote, deployed, and supervised distributed (parallelized) computational code on 16-core remote cluster in Julia

**An algorithm for fast optimization over a lattice**, *independent project* 2018 - 2019

- slashed computational time by 10-100x by creating new algorithm
- designed and implemented new algorithm in Julia
- wrote documentation and gave presentations with usage demonstrations
- theoretically proved the algorithm is always accurate and applicable in many relevant settings

**Brazil's tariff cuts and jobs in its nontraded sector**, *independent project* 2017 -

- operationalized 10 years of worker panel administrative datasets (500M+ obs) for analysis
- concluded that Brazil's tariff cuts created ~1M jobs in nontraded (service) industries, using causal inference strategy incorporating binary outcome and selection correction analysis in R
- gave seminar presentations of findings

**Does education increase rural-to-urban mobility?**, *independent project* 2019

- merged 3 years of spatial Honduras census data (IPUMS)
- designed and completed instrumental variable causal analysis of school's role on adult outcomes in R
- concluded that each year of early education causes a 5-11 p.p. higher likelihood of living in a city as an adult
- wrote report for general audiences, describing quasi-experimental design and results using R markdown and ggplot2

All projects are available at [rowanxshi.github.io](http://rowanxshi.github.io).

## Other experience

**Course organizer and teaching assistant**, *Princeton University* 2018 -

- managed team of ~5 teaching assistants and ~10 graders, co-ordinated with professor and university administration
- prepared and gave weekly lectures covering new material to groups of ~20 students
- met with students individually to answer questions and work through problem sets

**Financial Research Analyst**, *Dominion Bond Rating Service* 2013

- assembled, analyzed, and synthesized data on pension plans for 500 public companies
- wrote report for company clients, summarizing the state of defined contributions pension plans

## Skills

causal inference (e.g. instrumental variables, RDD), (multi-level) linear regression, logit/probit models  
English, French, Mandarin Chinese  
R (data.table, dplyr, R markdown), Stata, MATLAB, Julia, Git, LaTeX, CSS, Slurm  
yoga, baking desserts, photography, visual design, spicy food

stats  
languages  
scripting  
interests