

SHERRIE CHENG

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

2020-

- PhD in Economics
- Interests: Empirical microeconomics, industrial organization, economics of digitization

University of Western Ontario, London, ON

2016-2020

- Bachelor of Arts (Honors) with Distinction in Economics and Mathematics
- Thesis: Can Google searches predict the unemployment rate in Canada? (Presented at the 2020 CEA/BOC Undergraduate Research Award Seminar)
- Recipient of the S.F. Glass Gold Medal (awarded to the top graduating student in the Honors Specialization in Economics)

EMPLOYMENT

PhD Intern at the Bank of Canada, Ottawa, ON

2021 Summers

- Intern in the Heterogeneity Laboratory (Economic and Financial Research Department)
- Worked with Canadian household microdata (Survey of Household Spending, Survey of Financial Security) and household consumer credit data to develop an updated Household Risk Assessment Model.

Undergraduate Research Student at Western University, London, ON

2019 Summer

- Recipient of an NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award in Mathematics

PROJECTS & RESEARCH

Can Google searches predict the unemployment rate in Canada?

2020

- Investigated whether Google search data can be useful in forecasting the unemployment rate in Canada.
- Found that incorporating Google Trends data, specifically Google searches for “EI benefits + unemployment benefits,” can reduce the forecast error of unemployment forecasting models by up to 38 percent during the 2008 recession.
- Presented at the 2020 CEA/BOC Undergraduate Research Award Seminar

Innovation in China: Ownership, efficiency, and current innovation policy

2019

- Studied whether Chinese state-owned firms are less productive than privately-owned firms and the effectiveness of Chinese industrial policy at promoting innovation.
- Conducted a systematic review of the literature on the relationship between productivity, innovation, and ownership, with a focus on Chinese firms. Also looked at the allocation of R&D government subsidies on innovation in China and the effect they had on innovation.
- Highly Commended (i.e. top 10%) in the Economics category at the 2020 Global Undergraduate Awards

Bank of Canada Governor's Challenge 2018

- Analyzed and forecast economic and financial developments in Canada and the world to provide the Bank's Governing Council with an interest rate policy recommendation.
- Analyzed information from the Bank of Canada Monetary Policy Report and Financial Systems Review, the IMF's World Economic Outlook, and various Federal Reserve reports
- Produced a vector autoregressive model in R to forecast CPI over the next three years.

EXTRACURRICULAR EXPERIENCE

Senior Editor, Western Undergraduate Economics Review, London, ON 2019-2020

- Worked with the Junior Editor and faculty advisor to select and edit articles for Western's undergraduate economics journal

President at Western Economics Society, London, ON 2018-2020

- Worked with the Economics Department to organize events for economics students

Supervisor and Tutor at Economics Drop-in Centre, London, ON 2018-2020

- Tutored students in introductory and intermediate microeconomics and macroeconomic

AWARDS

- University Fellowship (UPenn) 2020-2025
- Highly Commended (Economics) for the paper "*Innovation in China: Ownership, efficiency, and current innovation policy*" (The Global Undergraduate Awards) 2020
- S.F. Glass Gold Medal in Economics (UWO) 2020
- Student Leader Award in Economics (UWO) 2020
- Economics Core Course Award (UWO) 2020
- Dean's Honor List (UWO) 2016-2020
- Western University Continuing Admission Scholarship (UWO) 2016-2020
- Kevin H. Burley Economics Scholarship (UWO) 2020
- James G. Wetmore Scholarship in Economics (UWO) 2019
- Hon. Edward Blake Scholarship for Third Year Economics (UWO) 2019
- NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award 2019
- Essay Prize in Economics (Honors level) for paper titled *Do campaign contributions buy votes or do votes determine campaign contributions?* (UWO) 2019
- Walter J. Koenig Scholarship (UWO) 2018
- Dr. W. Glenn Campbell & Dr. Mark K. Inman Scholarship in Economics (UWO) 2018, 2019
- Elizabeth Sullivan Award in Economics (UWO) 2018
- McMullin-Arnold Global Opportunities Award (UWO) 2017

SKILLS

Programming: R, MATLAB, Python, Java, LaTeX