

Likun (Sylvia) Tian

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EDUCATION

London School of Economics and Political Science

PhD/MRes in Economics (Distinction)
MSc in Econometrics and Mathematical Economics (Distinction)

London, U.K.
2023 - 2028 (Expected)
2020 - 2021

University of Rochester

Bachelor of Science in Physics (Cum Laude; High Distinction for top 10% major GPA)
Bachelor of Arts in Financial Economics (Cum Laude; with Distinction)

Rochester, NY, U.S.A
2013 - 2017

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Edgeworth Economics

Senior Economic Consultant
Economic Consultant

Washington, DC, U.S.A.
2018 - 2020
2017 - 2018

- Supported expert witnesses on antitrust matters including price-fixing, class certification, and pay-for-delay, as well as employment discrimination and pro bono engagements
- Conducted heterogeneity and robustness analyses on large-scale transaction, financial, and employment datasets using SAS and Stata to quantify damages and assess liability, contributing to expert rebuttal reports
- Synthesised industry research and qualitative evidence to strengthen case narratives

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

London School of Economics, Industrial Organisation Group

Research assistant under the supervision of Prof. Alessandro Gavazza

London, U.K.
Jun 2025 - Dec 2025

- Implemented and simulated a dynamic discrete-choice model of consumer inertia and price walking in the motor insurance market using MATLAB to evaluate how preference and inattention parameters affect equilibrium pricing
- Analysed heterogeneity in household deposit patterns using the ECB Household Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS), linking variation in savings behaviour to household characteristics and macroeconomic conditions.

Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)

Visiting researcher

London, U.K. (remote)
Jun 2024 - Jun 2025

- Developed a first-order mean field game model of market microstructure in the dry-bulk shipping charter market
- Applied proprietary data on ocean dry-bulk shipping contracts to provide empirical support for model simulations

University of Oxford, Economics Department

Research assistant under the supervision of Prof. Niclas Moneke (Oxford)
and Prof. Torsten Figueiredo Walter (NYU Abu Dhabi)

Oxford, U.K.
Nov 2020 - Dec 2024

- Analysed geo-spatial, census, and various survey datasets in R to assess the heterogeneous effects of rural electrification on village-level private adoption in Zambia using a staggered difference-in-difference approach

London School of Economics, Public Economics Group

Pre-doctoral research assistant under the supervision of Prof. Xavier Jaravel (LSE)

London, U.K.
Jul 2021 - Jun 2023

- Conducted empirical analysis using the U.S. Consumer Expenditure Survey (CEX) data to measure long-run growth of real consumption and correct for bias under preference nonhomotheticity
- Explored the magnitude of price and quantity pass-through of the 2020 German value-added tax (VAT) cut in response to Covid-19 using proprietary scanner data collected from multiple EU countries

International Growth Center (IGC)

Research assistant

London, U.K.
Dec 2020 - Apr 2021

- Cleaned and analysed firm-level employment and productivity datasets collected through the World Bank Enterprise Survey to study the various channels through which small and medium enterprises (SME) impact the aggregate economy and labour outcomes in developing countries over the past decade

PROGRAMMING SKILLS

Statistical Languages:

R (highly experienced), **Python** (highly experienced), **Stata** (highly experienced), **MATLAB** (experienced), **SAS** (experienced), **SQL** (experienced)

Programming Languages:

C/C++ (some experience), **Fortran** (some experience)

Other Languages/Tools:

QGIS (experienced), **Bloomberg** (some experience), **Tableau** (some experience)

WORKING PAPERS

The Social Value of Rural Electrification: Evidence from Zambia

Jointly with Niclas Moneke and Torsten Figueiredo Walter

We analyse the effects of electrifying schools and health facilities across 742 villages in rural Zambia, exploiting staggered grid roll-out and a government mandate to connect public infrastructure. Electrified schools attract more qualified teachers; electrified health facilities gain refrigeration, deliver more vaccinations and live births.

Racial Steering by Real Estate Intermediaries

Jointly with Davi Moura and Guilherme Jardim

We develop a structural model of intermediated housing search to test whether buyer brokers engage in racial steering or reduce search costs by aligning buyer-seller preferences, using housing listing and transaction data.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

London School of Economics and Political Science

Graduate Teaching Assistant

London, U.K.

2024 - Present

- Class teacher for EC2C3 Econometrics I (average teaching evaluation 4.9/5 in 2024 - 2026)
- Class teacher for EC1C1 Econometrics I (teaching evaluation 4.7/5 in 2024 - 2025)

University of Rochester, Mechanical Engineering Department

Teaching Assistant for ME 201/MTH 281 Fourier Analysis

Rochester, NY, U.S.A.

2015 - 2017

LANGUAGE SKILLS & EXTRACURRICULAR

Language: English (proficient), Mandarin (native), German (beginner to intermediate)

Extracurricular: Piano, Ballet, Boxing, Swimming