

Last Updated: October 8, 2025

# WILLY (WEI-LI) CHEN

Old Botany Rm 5, Michigan State University| *EastLansing, MI*

✉ willyc@msu.edu 🌐 www.willycecon.com

## EDUCATION

---

**Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI**

*August 2022 – Present*

*Doctor of Philosophy - Economics*

- Peter Schmidt [Outstanding First-Year Student] Award

*Summer 2023*

**The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL**

*October 2019 – August 2020*

*Master of Arts in Social Sciences—Economics*

- Phoenix Research Award

- Director's Scholarship

**The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH**

*August 2015 – May 2019*

*Bachelor of Science in Mathematics—Theoretical*

*Bachelor of Science in Economics*

- Summa Cum Laude with Research Distinction in Economics

## TECHNICAL SKILLS AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

- Data Analytics and Econometrics: Stata, R, Python, SQL, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X
- Languages: Fluent in English, Taiwanese, and Taiwanese Mandarin
- Interests: Economics of Inequality, Labor Economics

## PEER-REVEIWED PAPERS

---

Elbel, B., Zhou, G. E., Lee, D. C., Chen, W., Day, S. E., Konty, K. J., & Schwartz, A. E. (2022). *Analysis of School-Level Vaccination Rates by Race, Ethnicity, and Geography in New York City*. JAMA network open, 5(9), e2231849-e2231849.

## WORKING PAPERS

---

Willy Chen, Xiao Qiao, and Hanzhe Zhang, December 2024. *138 years of economics research collaboration*

Saied Toossi, Willy Chen, and Amy Ellen Schwartz November 2024. *The Relationship between Entrée Variety and Student Participation in School Lunch*

Willy Chen, October 2024. *Descriptive Units of Heterogeneity: An Axiomatic Approach to Measuring Heterogeneity (Under Review)*

## EMPLOYMENT

---

**Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI**

*August 2020 – Present*

*Instructor:*

- *Introduction to Microeconomics (201)*

*Teaching Assistant:*

- *Intermediate Microeconomics (251H, 301)*

- *PhD Game Theory (812B)*

**Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY**

*September 2020 – May 2022*

*Research Associate, Center for Policy Research*

**The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL**

*October 2019 – June 2020*

*Teaching Assistant, ECON 100/200/201*

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

---

### **Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY**

*September 2020 – Present*

*Research Associate – Center for Policy Research*

- Supervising Professor: Amy Ellen Schwartz
- Statistical Analysis with multiple projects using student-level longitudinal data from New York City Department of Education and partnering organizations

### **The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL**

*October 2019 – August 2020*

*Graduate Student Researcher, MA Thesis Project*

- "Moving To Inclusion: The Migration Effects of Sanctuary City Policies"
- Handling proposal, research design, data collection, statistical analysis, and writing
- Conduct analysis at both the micro and the macro level, building on the random utility model and the Schelling Tipping point model

### **The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH**

*May 2017 – May 2019*

*Undergraduate Student Researcher, BA Thesis Project*

- "Fact Checking: An empirical analysis of the effect of sanctuary city policy"
- Cleaned and prepared raw data directly from the American Community Survey (ACS)
- Used city-year fixed-effect regressions under the *event studies* framework to analyze the city-level effect of sanctuary city policies in the United States

### **Data Fest at The Ohio State University**

*April 2019*

*Research Team Member*

- Cleaned and prepared raw data from Canada Women's Sevens (rugby team) for analysis
- Collected data set from individual players over 32 games for every  $\frac{1}{10}$  second (GPS tracking and 3D force vectors)
- Created a new metric to track real-time physical toll in game to increase player output based on exertion and monitor injury risks
- Received Honorable Mention. Judges Choice

## REFERENCES

---

### **Name: Todd Elder**

Title: MSU Foundation Professor of Economics

University: Michigan State University

Email: telder@msu.edu

Phone: 517-355-0353

### **Name: Hanzhe Zhang**

Title: Associate Professor of Economics

University: Michigan State University

Email: hanzhe@msu.edu

### **Name: Alfonso Flores-Lagunes** (Applied Econometrics Instructor)

Title: Vice-President and Director of Research

University: W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research

Email: Flores-Lagunes@upjohn.org

Phone: 269-716-4358