

Last Updated: January 29, 2026

WILLY (WEI-LI) CHEN

Old Botany Rm 5, Michigan State University| East Lansing, MI

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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, PostgreSQL, L^AT_EX

- Languages: Fluent in English, Taiwanese, and Taiwanese Mandarin

- Interests: Economics of Inequality, Labor Economics

PEER-REVIEWED 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:

- EC201—Introduction to Microeconomics

Teaching Assistant:

- EC251H/EC301—Intermediate Microeconomics

- EC812B—Graduate Game Theory

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: (Dissertation Co-Chair) Todd Elder

Title: MSU Foundation Professor of Economics

University: Michigan State University

Email: telder@msu.edu

Phone: 517-355-0353

Name: (Dissertation Co-Chair) 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