

Xiaoxin Zhang

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Placement Director: Nicolas Lambert
Ph.D Program Advisor: Annie Le

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Research Fields

Public Economics, Health Economics, Economics of Aging

Education

University of Southern California, Ph.D. in Economics	Expected 2026
Tufts University, M.S. in Economics	2020
Zhejiang University, B.A. and M.A. in Labor and Social Security	2016 and 2018

Job Market Paper

Bundling Pension and Health Insurance to Mitigate Adverse Selection: Evidence from Land-Expropriated Farmers in China with Danli Shen and Xiang Zhang

Abstract: Starting in 2011, Zhejiang Province allowed land-expropriated farmers to voluntarily upgrade from low-premium, low-benefit pension and health insurance programs to high-premium, high-benefit schemes. Using administrative data from City C, we document evidence of adverse selection in both pension and health insurance. Leveraging an instrumental variable design, we estimate demand, average cost, and marginal cost curves to quantify the resulting welfare losses. We then develop a random-coefficient logit model and show that offering subsidies for individual programs rather than the bundled option, an “anti-bundling” approach, achieves a Pareto improvement. This occurs because, counterintuitively, pension and health costs are positively correlated through the individual medical account component.

Work in Progress

1. Bundling Pensions and Health Insurance to Mitigate Adverse Selection: Evidence from China's Laid-Off Workers *with Danli Shen and Xiang Zhang*
2. Social Pension and Marriage Market *with Xiang Zhang*
3. Mandatory Savings and Housing Demand: Evidence from the House Provident Fund in China *with Xiang Zhang*
4. Left Out and Losing Faith: Political Trust and Exclusion from China's Minimum Living Standard Guarantee *with Ying Lu and Xiang Zhang*
5. Land Expropriation and Intergenerational Labor Reallocation
6. From Home to Classroom: The Educational Impact of Housing Demolition

Teaching Assistant Experience

Microeconomic Theory II (Graduate), USC	Spring 2026
Introduction to Econometrics (Undergraduate), USC	Fall 2025
Principles of Macroeconomics (Undergraduate), USC	Fall 2024
Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy (Graduate), USC	Spring 2024
Financial Markets (Undergraduate), USC	Spring 2022
Time Series Analysis (Graduate), USC	Fall 2021
Big Data Econometrics (Graduate), USC	Fall 2021, 2022
Microeconomics I & II (Graduate), Tufts	Fall 2019, Spring 2020
New Institutional Economics (Undergraduate), ZJU	Spring 2017, 2018

Honors & Awards

Outstanding Second Year Paper Award, USC	2022
Graduate Fellowship, USC	2020, 2025
Best Graduate Thesis in Economics, Tufts	2020
The Henken Family Endowed Graduate Research Fund, Tufts	2019
Graduate Summer Scholars Fellowship, Tufts	2019
National Scholarship, ZJU	2015, 2017

Conferences

EuHEA Seminar Series, Online	2026
PhD - Economics Virtual Seminar, Online	2025
The 1 st Boston College PhD Conference in Economics	2025
Applied Young Economists Webinar Series, Online	2025
2025 CES NA Annual Conference, University of Michigan	2025
The 19 th Economics Graduate Student Conference, Washington University in St. Louis	2024

Additional Information

Skills: Python, Matlab, Stata, R

Languages: Mandarin (Native), English (Fluent)

References

Pablo Kurlat

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Benjamin Handel

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