

Xiaoxin Zhang

xiaoxin@usc.edu | (747) 476-9743 | xiaoxin-zhang.github.io
3620 South Vermont Ave, KAP 300, Los Angeles, CA 90089

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

Lambertn@usc.edu
anniele@usc.edu

Research Fields

Public Economics, Health Economics, Economics of Aging

Education

University of Southern California, Ph.D. in Economics	2020 - 2026 (Expected)
Tufts University, Master's in Economics	2018 - 2020
Zhejiang University, Master's in Social Security	2016 - 2018
Zhejiang University, Bachelor's in Labor and Social Security	2012 - 2016

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 employee schemes. Using administrative data from City C, we document evidence of adverse selection in both pension and health insurance. Employing instrumental variable and regression discontinuity designs, we estimate demand, average cost, and marginal cost curves to quantify the resulting welfare losses. We then develop a random coefficient logit model showing that bundling pension and health insurance can improve welfare without harming any group of participants by enhancing risk pooling and mitigating adverse selection, as healthier individuals favor pension insurance, while less healthy individuals prefer health insurance.

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 Chinas Minimum Living Standard Guarantee *with Ying Lu and Xiang Zhang*
5. Why Do Women Study Harder Than Men: A Perspective on Employment Discrimination *with Sheng Qu, Xiang Zhang*
6. The Impact of China's One-Child Policy on Womens Lifetime Income
7. How Land Expropriation Affects Farmers Labor Market Decisions
8. From Home to Classroom: The Educational Impact of Housing Demolition

Teaching Experience

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
Best Graduate Thesis in Economics, Tufts	2020
The Henken Family Endowed Graduate Research Fund, Tufts	2019
Graduate Summer Scholars Fellowship, Tufts	2019
Graduation with Honors, ZJU	2016, 2018
Outstanding Dissertation, ZJU	2016
National Scholarship, ZJU	2015, 2017

Conferences

The 1 st Boston College PhD Conference in Economics	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 Professor of Economics University of Southern California kurlat@usc.edu	Thomas Chaney Professor of Economics University of Southern California chaneyt@usc.edu	Benjamin Handel Professor of Economics University of California, Berkeley handel@berkeley.edu
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