

# Xiaoyang Ye

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<https://xiaoyangye.github.io/>

Last updated: December 2025

## Research Positions

Economist, Amazon, 2022-

Postdoctoral Researcher in Education Policy, Brown University, 2020-2022

Postdoctoral Researcher in Economics of Education, Princeton University, 2019-2020

## Research Interests

Behavioral Economics + Causal Machine Learning => Improving Human Capital Decisions

## Education

2019 Ph.D. in Higher Education (*Concentration: Economics*), University of Michigan

2013 M.A. in Economics of Education, Peking University

2010 B.A. in Economics, Peking University

## Dissertation

“Improving College Choice for the Poorest Students Using Behavioral Policy Interventions”

Committee: Susan Dynarski (co-chair), Brian Jacob (co-chair), Stephen DesJardins, Brian McCall, Jeffrey Smith

## Awards and Honors

Best Research Poster Award, Amazon Economist Summit, 2024

Best Paper Award, SIG on Survey Research in Education, AERA, 2024

Thomas B. Fordham Institute & American Enterprise Institute, Emerging Education Policy Scholars, 2022

Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) #AEFPoem Award, 2021

Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Jean Flanigan Outstanding Dissertation Award, 2020

University of Michigan, Stanley E. and Ruth B. Diamond Best Dissertation Award, 2020

Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) New Scholar Award, 2018  
University of Michigan, Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, 2018  
National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship, 2017-18

## Research Papers

(\*with student coauthors, #authorship not randomized)

### UNDER REVIEW PAPERS

- [32] “Parents’ earnings and the returns to universal pre-Kindergarten” (with John Eric Humphries, Christopher Neilson, Seth Zimmerman) *NBER Working Paper 33038*
- [31\*] “College-major choice to college-then-major choice: The heterogeneous impacts of late specialization reforms” (with Xin Li, Liping Ma, Qiong Zhu) *EdWorkingPaper 22-695*
- [30\*] “Information for vision: Experimental evidence on nudging low-income students to wear eyeglasses” (with Jiusheng Zhu, Yu Zhao, Xinjie Zhang)
- [28] “The sources of researcher variation in economics” (with Nick Huntington-Klein & many economists) *NBER Working Paper 33729*
- [29] “Option value neglect: Evidence from centralized college admission” (with Ao Wang, Shaoda Wang) *NBER Working Paper 33704*
- [27\*] “Using text-messages to overcome parenting barriers in under-resourced communities: Evidence from a field experiment in rural China” (with Susanna Loeb et al.)
- [26] “The global gender gap in STEM applications: Pipeline vs. choice” (with Andres Barrios Fernandez et al.) *IZA Working Paper 18092*
- [25] “The value of late specialization in human capital accumulation: Evidence from China’s meta-major reform” (with Le Kang et al.)

### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- [24\*] “Combating learning poverty: Experimental evidence on improving instruction through teacher training” (with Xinjie Zhang, Lu Wang) *Economics of Education Review* [2025]
- [23\*] “The demand for data analytical skills by gender: Evidence from a field experiment” (with Menghan Shen, Xiangrui Zheng, Tong Wang) *Economics of Education Review* [2025]
- [22\*] “Peer effects on college choice: Evidence from AA in China” (with Mengying Peng) *Labour Economics* [2025]

- [21\*] “Migrant children’s take-up of social health insurance: Experimental evidence from China” (with Menghan Shen, Zhiwei Tang, Xiaoxia Liang) [Journal of Policy Analysis and Management](#) [2025]
- [20] “Free teacher education in rural China: Incentives and challenges” (with Muxin Zhai, Li Feng) [China Economic Review](#) [2025]
- [19] “Improving college choice in centralized admissions: Experimental evidence on the importance of precise predictions” [Education Finance and Policy \(& EFP Takeaways\)](#) [2024]
- [18\*] “Do teachers’ college prepare better teachers? Evidence from a top school district in China” (with Qi Zheng et al.) [China Economic Review](#) [2024]
- [17\*] “Recruiting high-quality teachers with service scholarships: Descriptive evidence from China’s Free Teacher Education Scholarship” (with Qi Zheng et al.) [ECNU Review of Education](#), [2024]
- [16\*] “How does developmental advising impact college students?” (with Yuchen Yang, Xuanxuan Ma, Hongbin Wu) [Studies in Higher Education](#) [2024]
- [15] “When information conflicts with obligations: The role of motivated cognition” (with Ao Wang, Shaoda Wang) [The Economic Journal \(& NBER Working Paper 30581\)](#) [2023]
- [14\*] “College-major choice to college-then-major choice: Experimental evidence from Chinese college admissions reforms (with Xin Li et al.) [Economics of Education Review \(& EdWorkingPapers 22-694\)](#) [2022]
- [13\*] “How college-student academic undermatch affects students: Quasi-experimental evidence on multifaceted student outcomes” (with Xin Li, Xiaogang Wu) [Social Science Research](#) [2023]
- [12\*] “Impacts of village preschools on student enrollment and longer-term outcomes: New evidence from the poorest regions in China” (with Shuangye Chen et al.) [International Journal of Educational Development](#) [2023]
- [11\*#] “The effect of an information intervention on the career commitment of medical students: Evidence from a randomized experiment” (with Hongbin Wu et al.) [Frontiers in Medicine](#) [2023]
- [10] “Still want to be a doctor? Medical student dropout in the era of COVID-19” (with Muxin Zhai, Li Feng, Hongbin Wu et al.) [Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization](#) [2022]
- [9\*] “Going global: New evidence on the international graduate school choice of Chinese outbound students” (with Suhong Yang, Dean He) [Higher Education](#) [2022]
- [8] “More money on learning, less learning loss?” [Learning Curve at Urban Institute](#) (internally reviewed) [2022]
- [7\*] “Centralization vs. decentralization: The financing of public primary education in China” (with Wei Ha, Dongyang Chen) [AEFP Recent Advancements in Education Finance and Policy](#) (eds. Downes, T., Killeen, K.) [2022]
- [6\*#] “Prosocial modeling matters” (ith Dan Wang, Hongbin Wu) [Annals of Medicine](#) [2022]

- [5\*] “The elite exclusion: Stratified access and production during higher education expansion” (with Yanqing Ding, Yinduo Wu, Jin Yang) [Higher Education](#) [2021]
- [4\*#] “Expanding online education for future doctors on a national scale” (with Hongbin Wu et al.) [BMC Medical Education](#) [2021]
- [3\*] “Heterogeneous major preferences for extrinsic incentives: The effects of wage information on the gender gap in STEM major choice” (with Yanqing Ding et al.) [Research in Higher Education](#) [2021]
- [2] “Traditional dietary habits and interprovincial migration in college choice: Evidence From Ningxia in China” (with Le Kang, Yanqing Ding) [ECNU Review of Education](#) [2020]
- [1] “Intergovernmental transfer under heterogeneous accountabilities: The effects of the 2006 Chinese Education Finance Reform” (with Yanqing Ding, Fengming Lu) [Economics of Education Review](#) [2020]

#### **WORKING PAPERS (SELECTED)**

- [1] “The road not taken: Unequal pathways through high school mathematics coursetaking” (with Susanna Loeb) [Brown University Working Paper](#) [2022]
- [2] “Personalized advising for college match: Experimental evidence on the use of human expertise and machine learning to improve college choice” [Brown University Working Paper](#) [2022]
- [3] “Future doctors at the present crossroad: Informational nudge in U.S. health education” (with Muxin Zhai, Li Feng) [Texas State University Working Paper](#) [2023]
- [4\*] “Intergenerational mobility effects of regional education and migration policy in China” (with Jonas Jin, Alan Yang) [Princeton University Working Paper](#) [2023]
- [5\*] “Motivate future doctors: Evidence from a large-scale online experiment in China” (with Hongbin Wu, Hang Yu et al.) [Peking University Working Paper](#) [2025]
- [6] “The promise of online learning to improve human capital accumulation by reducing the opportunity cost of schooling” (with Di Xu, Daniel Firoozi) [UC Irvine Working Paper](#) [2025]
- [7\*] “Behavioral attenuation and teachers’ take-up of EdTech: Experimental evidence from rural China” (with Ying Lin) [CMU Working Paper](#) [2025]
- [8\*] “The intersection of Ramadan and the College Entrance Exam: Impacts on student outcomes” (with Mengying Peng) [Hitotsubashi University Working Paper](#) [2025]
- [9\*] “China ‘World Class University’ label and students’ admission outcomes” (with Runjiu Liu) [UC Berkeley Working Paper](#) [2025]

[<sup>10\*</sup>] “Agentic economic modeling” (with Bohan Zhang, Jiaxuan Li, Ali Hortaçsu, Victor Chernozhukov et al.) [arXiv Preprint:2510.25743 \[2025\]](#)

## TRANSLATION

Alvin E. Roth (2015). Who Gets What—and Why: The New Economics of Matchmaking and Market Design. *Chinese Edition (with Yining Lin)*, CITIC Publishing Group [2025]

## Peer-Reviewed Conferences

AEFP (every year since 2014)

Advances with Field Experiment, AEA, AERA, APPAM, ASHE, NBER Summer Institute (various years)

## Professional Services

Program Committee Reviewer, AEFP Annual Conference, 2025-2026

Awards Committee Reviewer, AEFP Annual Conference, 2024-2025

Program Committee Reviewer, AEFP Annual Conference, 2023-2024

Program Committee Reviewer, AEFP Annual Conference, 2022-2023

Program Committee Reviewer, AEFP Annual Conference, 2021-2022

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