# XUAN LI

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, May 2025 (expected)
  Dissertation Title: *Three Essays in Applied Microeconomics*
  Dissertation Committee: Raymond Fisman, Daniele Paserman, Benjamin Marx

M.A., Economics, Boston University, 2019

M.Phil., Economics, Lingnan University, Hong Kong, 2018

B.A., Economics, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, China, 2016

## FIELDS OF INTEREST

Public Economics, Political Economy, Labor Economics, Economics of Crime

## PUBLICATIONS

"Minimum Wage and Internal Labor Migration: Evidence from China," ***Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization***, (2024) 226 (with Shuang Ma and Xi Wu)
"The Effect of Political Connections on the Distribution of Firm Performance," ***China Economic Review***, (2024) 88 (with Yanchen Wang)

## WORKING PAPERS

"Political Responses to Hate Crimes," 2024. Job Market Paper (with Hantao Wu)
"Host Favoritism and Talent Selection: Evidence from Chinese Science Olympiads," 2024, revise and resubmit at the ***Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*** (with Justin Hong)
"Voter's Cognitive Bias and Strategic Candidate Entry," 2023.
"Hurricane Names, Candidate Exposure, and Voter Preferences," 2023 (with Yuzhao Yang)
"Gender Composition and High-Stakes Cognitive Performance: Evidence from a Quasi-Randomized Experiment," 2023 (with Xiang Zhou)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

"The Impact of Hate Crimes on Students: Academic Performance, Mental Health, and Non-Cognitive Skills" (with Ying Shi, and Hantao Wu)
"License to Corruption" (with Yiming Cao, Raymond Fisman, Justin Hong, and Michael Luca)

## PRESENTATIONS

FROGEE 2024 Academic Conference, Stockholm, Sweden, scheduled
Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium, Columbus, OH, 2024
Banff Empirical Microeconomics Conference, Banff, AB, 2024
CES North America Conference, Bucknell, PA, 2024
AEA Annual Conference (poster session), San Antonio, Texas, 2024

EPOVB Conference, Tallahassee, FL, 2023
The Toronto Political Behavior Workshop (poster session), Toronto, ON, 2022
The Young Economist Symposium, New Haven, CT, 2022

**FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

Arnold Ventures Planning Grant ($94,300, PI), 2024
Overdeck Education Innovation Fund, Princeton University ($9,800, Co-PI), 2024
Abdala Fieldwork Grant, Boston University ($6,040, PI), 2024
IED Student Research Grant, Boston University ($3,000, PI)
CISS Summer Mini-Research Grant, Boston University ($2,000, PI), 2024
GRS Student Fellowship, Boston University, 2019-2024
Special Summer Stipend for MA Graduates in the PhD Program, Boston University, 2019
Outstanding M.Phil. Thesis Award, Lingnan University, 2019
Postgraduate Studentship, Lingnan University, 2016-2018

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

Research Assistant for Raymond Fisman, Boston University, Fall 2022 - Spring 2023; Fall 2024
Research Assistant for Xiangdong Wei, Lingnan University, Fall 2016 – Spring 2018
Research Assistant for Shuang Ma, Survey and Research Center for China Household Finance, Fall 2015 – Spring 2016

**REFEREE EXPERIENCE**

*European Economic Review*, *China Economic Review*

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Teaching Fellow, Web Scraping in Python, Spring 2016 – Spring 2018
Teaching Fellow, Development Economics, Fall 2020
Teaching Fellow, Econometrics, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023
Teaching Fellow, Statistics, Spring 2021
Teaching Fellow, Environmental Economics, Fall 2023
Teaching Fellow, Microeconomics, Spring 2024, Fall 2024

**LANGUAGES:** English (fluent), Mandarin (native)

**COMPUTER SKILLS:** STATA, Python, R, LaTeX, oTree, zTree

**CITIZENSHIP/VISA STATUS:** China/F1

**REFERENCES**

| **Professor Raymond Fisman** | **Professor Daniele Paserman** | **Professor Benjamin Marx** |
|---|---|---|
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**Political Responses to Hate Crimes**
*(with Hantao Wu)*

We investigate how targeted groups respond politically to hate crimes that occurr in their local communities. We combine incident-level administrative data on hate crimes in Los Angeles County from 2014 to 2022 with individual voter files, and leverage the hyperlocal variation in the geography and timing of these incidents. We show that serious anti-Hispanic hate crimes result in a 1.6 percentage points increase in voter turnout among nearby Hispanic voters compared to their White counterparts. This mobilization effect is mainly driven by communities with a high density of Hispanic population and the presence of Hispanic advocacy and community service organizations. We find no evidence of changes in the voter registration or migration patterns. Additionally, we demonstrate that hate crimes are associated with shifts in voters' policy preferences, particularly those relating to combating crime and affirmative action. Lastly, we find that more Hispanic candidates run for city offices in cities that have experienced hate crimes. However, we do not find significant changes in political participation among Black and American Asian communities following anti-Black and anti-Asian hate crimes, respectively. Hispanics represent a dominant demographic in Los Angeles County -- a larger group than whites, which may explain why the mobilization effect is observed exclusively among Hispanics.

**Hurricane Names, Candidate Exposure, and Voter Preferences**
*(with Yuzhao Yang)*

We show that, in contrast to classic models of voting and political advertising, mere exposure to (and thus familiarity with) a candidate may lead to greater support. Using data on sub-national elections in Louisiana and names used for Atlantic tropical storms from 1982 to 2020, we find that a down-ballot candidate receives a 12.1-percentage-points higher vote share in elections where a same-name hurricane hit Louisiana before the election. This result holds after considering name-specific popularity and potential behavioral responses from candidates. Our result contributes to our understanding of political campaigning and advertising markets more generally.

**Gender Composition and High-Stakes Cognitive Performance: Evidence from a Quasi-Randomized Experiment**
*(with Xiang Zhou)*

This paper examines whether gender composition may influence cognitive performance in a real-world high-stakes setting. We use unique administrative data on students taking the college entrance examination in China, who are randomly assigned to test rooms with varying gender compositions. Our findings reveal that an increased presence of male students in the test room leads to a decreased performance of female students, but does not affect males. The presence of males is a widely used cue for triggering stereotype threat in lab experiments, and additional evidence suggests our results are consistent with this concept: female students who are more inclined to endorse the math-gender stereotype are more strongly affected by gender composition. This study identifies a previously unexplored passive gender composition effect, providing new insights into the debate on education policy regarding single-sex versus mixed-sex schools.

October 2024