

# Yaling Xu

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## Education

Cornell University	2026 (expected)
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics	
University of Chicago	2020
M.A. in Computational Social Science, Economics	
Nanjing University	2018
B.A. in Business Administration	

## Research Interests

Labor Economics; Economics of Education; Health Economics

## Working Papers

"Does Coursework Matter? Uncovering the Role of Skills in the Returns to College"

"Mobile Internet and Mental Health" (with Lipeng Chen)

"Causal Inference in Staggered Adoption Panels: The Correct Comparison Units Depend on Your Intervention" (with Ian Lundberg)

## Work-in-Progress

"Nurse Education and Productivity" (with Jessica Lu)

"Does a College Minor Really Matter?" (with René Kizilcec)

## Awards

2025: Ernest Liu '64, Ta-Chung and Ya-Chao Liu Memorial Fellowship, Cornell University

2024: Brooks School of Public Policy Outstanding PhD Research Paper Award, Cornell University

2023: Tapan Mitra Memorial Prize (best third-year paper), Department of Economics, Cornell University

2023: Research Support Grant, Cornell Population Center, Cornell University

2023: Small Grants in Labor Economics, Cornell University

2021: Passed with Distinction First Year PhD Sequence, Department of Economics, Cornell University

2020 - Present: Sage Fellowship, Cornell University

2019: Social Sciences Scholarship, University of Chicago

2016: People's Scholarship (Academic merit-based scholarship, top 3% in department)

## Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant, Cornell University

2022 – 2024

Advisors: Nicolas Bottan; Colleen Carey

Research Assistant, University of Chicago

2019 – 2020

Advisors: Robert Kaestner; Dan Black and Carolyn Mary Sloane

## Teaching Experience

Spring 2024: PUBPOL 2100: Intermediate Microeconomics, Cornell University

Fall 2023: ECON 3850: Economics and Environmental Policy, Cornell University

Spring 2022: ECON 3670: Behavioral Economics and Public Policy, Cornell University

Fall 2021: PAM 2100: Introduction to Statistics, Cornell University

## **Industry Experience**

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**Netflix**

*Experimentation and Causal Inference Intern*

**Los Gatos, CA**

*May 2023 - August 2023*

**Women's World Banking**

*Research Intern*

**New York City, NY**

*June 2019 - August 2019*

## **Presentations and Seminars**

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**2025:** Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Conference; American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (ASA)\*; Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)

**2023:** Labor Work-in-Progress Seminar, Health Economics Seminar, Cornell University

\*Denotes co-author presentation of joint paper

## **Professional Service and Affiliation**

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**Referee Service:** *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; European Association of Young Economists (EAYE) Annual Meeting*

**Affiliation:** Graduate Affiliate, Inequality Data Science Lab; Cornell Center for the Study of Inequality; Cornell Population Center; Cornell Center for Social Sciences

**Department Service:** 2022-2024: Mentor, Field of Economics Mentorship Program; Member, Diversity in Cornell Economics

## **Selected Skills**

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**Software and Programming:** Python, Stata, R, SQL, Git, LaTeX

**Skills:** Causal Inference/Econometrics, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Machine Learning (ML), Text Mining, Data Scraping

## **References**

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**Michael F. Lovenheim** (chair)  
Professor  
Department of Economics  
Brooks School of Public Policy  
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**Evan Riehl**  
Associate Professor  
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**Nicholas J. Sander**  
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