

Yaling Xu

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Education

Cornell University	2026 (expected)
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics	
Cornell University	2024
M.A. in Economics	
University of Chicago	2022
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)

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

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

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

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

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

Michael F. Lovenheim (chair)
Professor
Department of Economics
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