

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 Paper

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

Work-in-Progress

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

"How to Choose Donors for Individual Synthetic Control?" (with Ian Lundberg)

"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: Evan Riehl; 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)

2024: Labor Work-in-Progress Seminar, Cornell University

2023: Health Economics Seminar, Cornell University

Professional Service and Affiliation

2024-Present: Graduate Affiliate, Inequality Data Science Lab

2024-Present: Graduate Affiliate, Cornell Center for the Study of Inequality

2024: Reviewer(×6), 2024 European Association of Young Economists (EAYE) Annual Meeting

2021-Present: Graduate Affiliate, Cornell Population Center

2021-Present: Graduate Affiliate, Cornell Center for Social Sciences

2022-Present: Mentor, Field of Economics Mentorship Program

2021-Present: Member, Diversity in Cornell Economics

2021-2022: Academic Events Chair, Graduate Students in Policy Analysis and Management

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

Brooks School of Public Policy

Industrial and Labor Relations

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Evan Riehl

Associate Professor

Industrial and Labor Relations

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Nicholas J. Sander

Associate Professor

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