Yaling Xu

✉ yx558@cornell.edu ● ⌂ yalingx.github.io

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*)

Work-in-Progress

"Causal Inference in Staggered Adoption Panels: The Correct Comparison Units Depend on Your Intervention" (*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 **Los Gatos, CA**
Experimentation and Causal Inference Intern *May 2023 - August 2023*

Women's World Banking **New York City, NY**
Research Intern *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

2024: Reviewer($\times 6$), 2024 European Association of Young Economists (EAYE) Annual Meeting

2022-Present: Graduate Affiliate, Inequality Data Science Lab; Cornell Center for the Study of Inequality; Cornell Population Center; Cornell Center for Social Sciences

2022-2024: Mentor, Field of Economics Mentorship Program; 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
Cornell University
mfl55@cornell.edu

Nicholas J. Sander
Associate Professor
Brooks School of Public Policy
Department of Economics
Cornell University
njsanders@cornell.edu

Evan Riehl
Associate Professor
Industrial and Labor Relations
Department of Economics
Cornell University
eriehl@cornell.edu