

Yang Liang

Department of Economics
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Employment

Associate Professor of Economics, San Diego State University, 2025–present
Associate Director, Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS), 2025–present
Assistant Professor of Economics, San Diego State University, 2018–2025
Assistant Director, Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS), 2021–2025

Education

Ph.D. Economics, Syracuse University, 2018.
M.A. Economics, Syracuse University, 2013.
B.B.A. Accounting, University of Science and Technology Beijing, 2012.
Exchange Program, University of California, Riverside, 2011–2012.

Research Interests

Health Economics, Labor Economics, International Economics

Publications

1. “Follow Thy Neighbor: The Role of First Exporters” (joint with Hao T. Fe and Mary E. Lovely)
– Forthcoming at *Journal of Urban Economics*
2. “The Effect of E-Cigarette Flavor Bans on Tobacco Use” (joint with Chad D. Cotti, Charles J. Courtemanche, Johanna Catherine Maclean, Erik T. Nesson, and Joseph J. Sabia), *Journal of Health Economics*, 2025.
3. “The Effect of E-Cigarette Taxes on Substance Use” (joint with Dhaval M. Dave, Johanna Catherine Maclean, Caterina Muratori, and Joseph J. Sabia), *Journal of Health Economics*, 2025.
4. “The Effects of Recreational Marijuana Legalization on Employment and Earnings” (joint with Dhaval M. Dave, Caterina Muratori, and Joseph J. Sabia), *Journal of Population Economics*, 2025.
5. “Do E-Cigarette Retail Licensure Laws Reduce Tobacco Use?” (joint with Charles J. Courtemanche, Johanna Catherine Maclean, Caterina Muratori, and Joseph J. Sabia), *Journal of Health Economics*, 2024.
6. “Mandatory Seatbelt Laws and Traffic Fatalities: A Reassessment” (joint with D. Mark Anderson and Joseph J. Sabia), *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, 2024.
7. “Can Exports Be Pain Relievers? The Effect of Exports on Workplace Safety and Health” (joint with Ling Li), *Review of International Economics*, 2024.

8. "Targeted Liberalization: China's Foreign Investment Regulation Reform and Its Post-WTO-Accession Export Surge" (joint with Mary E. Lovely and Hongsheng Zhang), *Review of International Economics*, 2025.
9. "Recreational Marijuana Laws and Teen Marijuana Use, 1993–2021" (joint with D. Mark Anderson, Hao T. Fe, and Joseph J. Sabia), *JAMA Psychiatry*, 2024.
10. "Recreational Marijuana Legalization and Workplace Injuries Among Younger Workers" (joint with Ling Li, Joseph J. Sabia and Dhaval M. Dave), *JAMA Health Forum*, 2024.
11. "Have Recreational Marijuana Laws Undermined Public Health Progress on Adult Tobacco Use?" (joint with Dhaval Dave, Michael F. Pesko, Serena Phillips, Joseph J. Sabia), *Journal of Health Economics*, 2023.
12. "Association Between State Antibullying Policies and Suicidal Behaviors Among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Questioning Youth" (joint with Daniel I. Rees, Joseph J. Sabia, and Cooper Smiley*), *JAMA Pediatrics*, 2023.
13. "Offshoring, Exports and Employment: Theory and Evidence from Korean Firms" (joint with Jae Yoon Lee, Devashish Mitra, and Priya Ranjan), *The World Economy*, 2021.
14. "Job Creation and Job Destruction: The Effect of Trade Shocks on U.S. Manufacturing Employment", *The World Economy*, 2021.
15. "Economic Geography and Inequality in China: Did Improved Market Access Widen Spatial Wage Differences?" (joint with Mary E. Lovely and Hongsheng Zhang), *China Economic Review*, 2019.

Working Papers

16. "Can Anti-Vaping Policies Curb Drinking Externalities? Evidence from E-Cigarette Taxation and Traffic Fatalities" (joint with Dhaval M. Dave, Johanna Catherine Maclean, Joseph J. Sabia, and Matthew Braaksma*) NBER WP 30670.
17. "Robots and Crime" (joint with Joseph J. Sabia and Dhaval M. Dave) NBER WP 33603.
18. "Do Vaping Taxes Tip the Scale? The Effect of E-Cigarette Taxation on Obesity" (joint with Charles J. Courtemanche, Tessie Krishna, Joseph J. Sabia, and Anthony Chuo), NBER WP 33890.
19. "Surviving the U.S.-China Trade War? Evidence from Chinese Exporters" (joint with Laura E. Connolly, Jiajun Lu, and Shuo Zhang)
20. "Bots and Trade at the Ballot Box: The Impact of Automation and Imports on U.S. Elections" (joint with Devashish Mitra and Shuo Zhang)

Book Chapters and Policy Work

21. "Reflecting on the China Shock: A Decade of Learning and Assessment" in Priyaranjan Jha and Devashish Mitra (eds.), *Elgar Encyclopedia of International Trade*, Edward Elgar Publishing. — Forthcoming.
22. "The Effects of Recreational Marijuana Legalization on Employment and Earnings" in *Research Briefs in Economics Policy No. 347*, CATO Institute, 2023. (with Dhaval M. Dave, Catheria Muratori, and Joseph J. Sabia)
23. "Trump Tariffs Primarily Hit Multinational Supply Chains, Harm U.S. Technology Competitiveness" (joint with Mary E. Lovely) *Policy Brief 18–12*, Washington: Peterson Institute for International Economics, 2018.

*(student coauthor)

24. "They Saved the Worst for Last: Why Trump's Impending December Tariffs on China Should Be Rolled Back" (joint with Mary E. Lovely) *Trade and Investment Policy Watch*, Washington: Peterson Institute for International Economics, 2019.
25. "State Enterprise Reform in China: Grasp or Release?" in Wei-Chiao Huang and Huizhong Zhou (eds.), *The Impact of China's Rise on the Pacific and the World*, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, Kalamazoo, MI, 2018. (with Mary E. Lovely)
26. "¿Necesita México libre comercio con Estados Unidos?" *Estudios Fronterizos*, 2022. (with James Gerber)

Seminar and Conference Presentations

- 2025 Universidad Alberto Hurtado (Virtual), iHEA
- 2024 UNCW, SEHO (Singapore), ASHEcon (San Diego), WEAI (Seattle), SEA (DC)
- 2023 WEAI (San Diego), APPAM(Atlanta), University of New Mexico
- 2022 WEAI (Portland), APPAM (DC), UEA (DC)
- 2021 SOLE Virtual Conference
- 2020 CES North America Virtual Conference
- 2019 AEA Annual Meetings (Atlanta) , MEA Annual Meetings (St. Louis), SEA Annual Meetings (Fort Lauderdale)
- 2018 San Diego State University, UC Irvine (Theory, History, and Development Seminar Series)
- 2017 Syracuse University (TDPE Workshop), Midwest International Trade Conference (Kentucky)
- 2016 The 8th International Symposium on Human Capital and Labor Markets (Beijing), Midwest International Trade Conference (Rochester).

Departmental Service

- Applied Micro Seminar Co-Organizer, 2021-present.
- Graduate Co-Advisor, Department of Economics, 2025-present.
- Graduate Committee, Department of Economics, 2024-present.
- Department Hiring Committee, 2020-present.
- Undergraduate Committee, Department of Economics, 2019-2024.
- Department Coordinator, Department of Economics, 2019-2020.

Referee

American Journal of Health Economics, American Journal of Preventive Medicine, China Economic Review, Economics Letters, Economic Modelling, Economics and Politics, Empirical Economics, Forum for Health Economics & Policy, Health Economics, Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Labor Research, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Population Economics, Korean Economic Review, Latin American Economic Review, Review of International Economics, Review of Economics of the Household, Review of World Economics, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Urban Studies, The World Economy.

Awards, Grants, and Fellowships

Division of Research and Innovation Assigned Time, 2024, 2025
Seed Grant Program, SDSU, 2023 (\$9,500), 2024 (\$7,350)
Research Team Grant, SDSU, 2023
Critical Thinking Grant, SDSU, 2022, 2024
University Grants Program, SDSU, 2021 (\$10,000)
Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies Research Fellow, SDSU, 2019 - present
Doctoral Prize for Best Dissertation, Maxwell School, Syracuse University, 2018
Gerald B. Daphna Cramer International Studies Research Fellow, 2016-2017

Teaching

Main Instructor - Econometrics, International Economics, Public Economics, Intermediate Microeconomics, Stata/R Bootcamp.

Student Advisement

Graduate (Placement)

Anthony Chuo (UT Austin, Economics Ph.D.)
Christian Pryfogle (U of Oregon, Economics Ph.D.)
Cooper Smiley (University of Georgia, Public Policy Ph.D.)
Matt Braaksma (U of Minnesota, Economics Ph.D.)
Russ Leonard (UC Irvine, Economics Ph.D.)
Rebecca Margolit (Cornell University, Economics Ph.D.)
Yiying Yang (Fordham University, Economics Ph.D.)
Xinyue Zhang (Rice University, Computer Science Ph.D.)

Last updated: October, 2025