

Yang Xun

Curriculum Vitae

The University of Warwick
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Academic Positions	Postdoctoral Research Fellow University of Warwick, UK	Sept. 2024 -
Education	<i>Ph.D.</i> in Economics <i>M.A.</i> in Economics and Finance CEMFI, Madrid, Spain	2020 - 2024 2018 - 2020
	<i>B.Sc.</i> in Mathematics and Applied Mathematics <i>B.Ec.</i> in Finance Renmin University of China, Beijing, China	2014 - 2018 2014 - 2018
	International Exchange University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA	2016 - 2017
References	Manuel Arellano CEMFI arellano@cemfi.es	Sonia Bhalotra University of Warwick Sonia.Bhalotra@warwick.ac.uk
	Damian Clarke University of Exeter & Universidad de Chile dclarke@fen.uchile.cl	Cauê Dobbin Georgetown University Cauê.Dobbin@georgetown.edu
Research Fields	Development Economics, Political Economy, Applied Microeconomics	
Working Papers	<p>(JMP - Link) Corruption and Talent Allocation – Under review</p> <p><i>Abstract:</i> Leveraging an anti-corruption audit program in Brazil, I investigate whether corruption shifts the allocation of talent. I link administrative data on program roll-out with education and employer-employee registers. Following audits, high-ability students change their college major to be less aligned with public sector careers, and they become less likely to enter public sector careers later on. Investigating mechanisms, I argue that these results are driven by the perception of lower returns to public sector careers owing to reduced rents and the risk of reputation loss. My findings highlight an understudied consequence of corruption, namely, the distortionary impacts on talent sorting.</p>	
	<p>The Global Health Toll of the Global Gag Rule (with Sonia Bhalotra and Damian Clarke) – <i>Draft available upon request</i></p> <p><i>Abstract:</i> The Global Gag Rule (GGR) is a pro-life policy that prohibits foreign non-governmental organizations receiving U.S. aid from providing or advocating for abortion-related services. First introduced by President Reagan in 1984, the policy has been rescinded by every Democratic administration and reinstated by every Republican. We examine the effects of the GGR on maternal mortality across two presidential transitions: Clinton to Bush (1993–2008) and Obama to Trump (2009–2020). Our empirical strategy employs a triple difference design that leverages cross-country</p>	

variation in U.S. aid dependence and within-country variation in baseline clinic access to measure exposure. We find that, on average, the reinstatement of the GGR is associated with a 16.7 percent increase in maternal mortality in highly-exposed aid-receiving countries. We also uncover larger effects under the Trump administration, likely due to the policy's unprecedented expansion in 2017.

Selected Work in Progress

Dating Preferences (with Sonia Bhalotra, George Beknazar-Yuzbashev, Damian Clarke, and Mateusz Stalinski) – *Pre-analysis plan drafted*

Abstract: We investigate how individuals trade off personality traits and ideology against attributes such as attractiveness and income when searching for potential partners. We are creating a dating site that includes AI-generated profiles together with actual participants, an approach that will allow us to elicit nuanced preferences in a controlled yet realistic setting.

Occupation Flexibility and the Graduate Gender Wage Gap in the UK (with Liza Benny, Sonia Bhalotra, Manuel Fernández, and Fan Wang) – *Analysis in progress*

Abstract: We study how gender differences in the demand and supply of job flexibility contribute to the gender wage gap over the life cycle and over time for graduates in the UK. We are estimating a model of labor supply and demand to quantify the role of changing preferences and relative demand for flexibility. Our current findings suggest that higher relative demand for male labour at older ages and in less flexible occupations, together with women's higher preferences for flexible work in recent cohorts, jointly explain a substantial share of the observed widening of the gender wage gap.

Immigration and Assimilation of the Chinese Diaspora in Indonesia – *Analysis in progress*

Abstract: This paper examines the role of state policy in fostering immigrant integration in the context of the ethnic Chinese in Indonesia. Ethnic Chinese faced institutionalized discrimination during the New Order regime (1966–1998), which was revoked following the fall of Suharto. I exploit cross-regional variation in pre-revocation ethnic Chinese population shares as a proxy for out-group exposure. Difference-in-differences estimates suggest that the revocation of discriminatory legislation fostered cultural assimilation, yet created a backlash in political integration. Additional data collection is in progress to investigate the mechanisms behind the diverging patterns of cultural and political assimilation.

Conferences and Seminars (*Scheduled)

2025 Applied Micro Workshop (Insper), Institute of Health Policy Studies (IEPS, São Paulo), CGU (Brasília), American-European Health Economics Study Group (Oxford), EYAE Annual Meeting (KCL), IEB Workshop on Political Economy (Barcelona), BSE Summer Forum Workshop on Policy Evaluation in Health and Labor, WOLFE (York), RHUL-City University Family and Health Economics Research Workshop, NEUDC (Tufts*)

2024 UiS Business School, University of Southern Denmark, CGU Ada Lovelace Hour (online), MWIEDC (University of Chicago), AYEW (Warwick-Monash, online), Bread Asia (NUS)

2023 NEUDC (Harvard Kennedy School), EWMES (Manchester)

2022 CAGE Summer School (Warwick), ACES Political Economy Summer School (LSE)

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Mathematics (Graduate), CEMFI
Fall 2021

Teaching Assistant, Uncertainty and Information (Graduate), CEMFI
Winter 2021, 2023

Relevant Positions	<i>Research Assistant, Dr. Yarine Fawaz, CEMFI</i> <i>Research Assistant, Prof. Manuel Arellano, CEMFI</i> <i>Research Assistant, Prof. Monica Martinez-Bravo, CEMFI</i>	2021 - 2024 2020 - 2021 2019
Grants, Awards, and Honors	<i>Maria de Maeztu Research Grant (€2000)</i> <i>CEMFI Ph.D. Scholarship</i> <i>CEMFI Master in Economics and Finance Scholarship</i> <i>Presidential Scholarship for International Exchange, RUC</i> <i>China National Scholarship</i> <i>China National Petroleum Corporation Scholarship</i>	2023 2020-2024 2018-2020 2016-2017 2015 & 2016 2014
Short-term Visits	<i>INEP, Ministry of Education</i> Brasilia, Brazil <i>Insper</i> São Paulo, Brazil	Apr. 2023 Mar.-Apr. 2025
Languages	Mandarin (Native), English (Fluent), Spanish (Intermediate), Portuguese (Basic)	

Last Updated: Oct. 2025