

Yichao Jin

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Education

Ph.D., Public Policy and Political Economy (Public Health), University of Texas at Dallas, Expected Spring 2026

- Dissertation: *Explore the Determinants of Time Discount Rate for Covid-like Diseases Vaccination: A Discrete Choice Experiment in Three Districts of Wuhan* - Chair: Dohyeong Kim - Minor: International Business and Public Policy

M.S., Social Data Analytics and Research, University of Texas at Dallas, Expected Spring 2026

Master of Development Economics, University of Queensland, 2019
- Advisor: Mohammad Alauddin

B.A., Economics, University of California, Riverside, 2017

Research Fields

Primary: Public Health, Behavioral Economics, Health Economics

Secondary: Public Policy, Applied Microeconomics

Working Papers

1. **“How Humans Value Delayed Protection: Biological Vulnerability and Intertemporal Health Decisions”** (with Dohyeong Kim)
Under Review at Economic Analysis and Policy — Job Market Paper

- DCE with 1,000+ respondents in Wuhan estimating hyperbolic and exponential discount rates; highlights role of biological vulnerability in shaping time preferences.
 - 2. **“How CEO Succession Influences Firm AI Innovation: The Role of Academic Experience”** (with Zhimin Tian, Yu Xiang)
Under Review at Journal of Business Research
 - Analyzes 1,776 CEO succession events in Chinese high-tech firms.
 - 3. **“The Price of Waiting: Evidence on Cash–Time Trade-Offs in Vaccination Time Discount”**
In Preparation — Target: Social Science & Medicine
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Work in Progress

1. **“Behavioral Elasticities of Early Vaccination Incentives”**
 - Structural simulation tools estimating incentive elasticity; integrates MWTA/WTW and iso-uptake surfaces.
 2. **“Time Preferences in Preventive Health: A Multi-Domain Behavioral Study”**
 - Explores domain-specificity of impatience across vaccination, mask acquisition, and antiviral adoption.
 3. **“AI-Assisted Behavioral Forecasting”** (SHARP + Stanford AI Certificate Integration)
 - Combines DCE with ML forecasting to identify high-discount subgroups for targeted intervention.
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Research Experience & Affiliations

Doctoral Researcher, Spatial Health AI Research Partnership (SHARP), UT Dallas

- Interdisciplinary collaboration using geospatial analytics, AI, and behavioral science.

Graduate Researcher, Behavioral Health Economics Laboratory, UT Dallas

- Vaccine uptake, discounting, and experimental design.

Conference Presentations

2026

- American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), March 2026

2025

- APPAM Fall Research Conference, Seattle, WA, November 2025

“*Estimating Time Discount Rate for Covid-like Diseases Vaccination*” - UT Dallas Graduate Research Symposium, September 2025

“*Modeling Vaccination Decisions with Hyperbolic Discounting*”

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, University of Texas at Dallas

- Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis (Graduate)
Econometrics labs, R programming, model interpretation
- Public Policy Analysis (Undergraduate)
Policy memo coaching, applied policy evaluation
- Health Economics & Public Policy (Undergraduate)
Lecture support, case studies, student advising

Courses Prepared to Teach:

Behavioral Economics; Health Economics; Microeconomics; Public Policy Analysis; Applied Econometrics; Quantitative Methods; Experimental Methods

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Year	Award
2025	Dean of Graduate Education Dissertation Research Award, UT Dallas
2025	Betty & Gifford Johnson Graduate Travel Award, UT Dallas
—	Omicron Delta Epsilon, International Honor Society for Economics
—	Multiple Academic Excellence Recognitions (UQ & UCR)

Certifications

- **Stanford Artificial Intelligence Graduate Certificate**, Stanford Online
AI Foundations, Machine Learning, and Applications
 - **CITI Human Subjects Protection** (Social & Behavioral Research)
Completed Oct 2022; Valid through Oct 2025
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Technical Skills

Software: Stata, R, Python, MATLAB, LaTeX

Methods: Discrete Choice Experiments (DCE), Mixed Logit, Hyperbolic Discounting, Causal Inference, Machine Learning

Languages

English (Fluent), Mandarin (Native)

References

Dohyeong Kim (Chair)

Professor, School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

University of Texas at Dallas

Email: dohyeong.kim@utdallas.edu

Soyoung Kwon

Associate Professor of Sociology

University of Texas at Dallas

Research: Social Determinants of Health, Health Disparities, Quantitative Methodology

Email: soyoung.kwon@utdallas.edu

Richard Scotch

Professor, School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

University of Texas at Dallas

Ph.D. Harvard; Research: Disability Policy, Health and Social Policy

Email: richard.scotch@utdallas.edu

Last Updated: February 2026