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*

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.

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

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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

Technical Skills

Software: Stata, R, Python, MATLAB, LaTeX
Methods: Discrete Choice Experiments (DCE), Mixed Logit, Hyperbolic Discounting, Causal Inference, Machine Learning

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Languages

English (Fluent), Mandarin (Native)

References

Dohyeong Kim (Chair)
Professor, School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences
University of Texas at Dallas
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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

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