Yichao Jin

Ph.D. Candidate

School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences the University of Texas at Dallas

Texas, USA

Phone: +1 6822664185

Email: yichao.jin@utdallas.edu

Research Interests

- Behavioral Economics: Intertemporal decision-making, time preference estimation, and hyperbolic discounting models.
- Public Health: Vaccination uptake, health policy design, and pandemic preparedness for pandemics.
- Discrete Choice Experiments (DCEs): Survey design, attribute-level balance, and applications in health and social sciences.
- Data Analysis: Mixed logit models, machine learning optimization (e.g., gradient descent), and fractional factorial designs.

Education

University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX/USA

PhD in Public Policy and Political Economy (Health Economics), expected spring 2026

Minor: International Business and Public Policy

- Dissertation: *Explore the Determinants of Time Discount Rate for Covid-like Diseases Vaccination: from a Discrete Choice Experiment in Three Districts of Wuhan (Supported by UTD Dean of Graduate Education Dissertation Research Award)*
  - Chair: Dohyeong Kim

University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX/USA

Master of science in Social Data Analytics and Research, expected spring 2026

University of Queensland, QLD/Australia

Master of Development Economics, 2019

Advisor: Mohammad Alauddin

University of California-Riverside, CA/USA

Bachelor of Arts in Economics, 2017

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW & WORKING PAPERS

How Humans Value Delayed Protection: Biological Vulnerability and Intertemporal Health Decisions
with Dohyeong Kim. Under review at **Economic Analysis and Policy**.
Utilizes a DCE with 1000+ respondents in Wuhan to estimate hyperbolic and exponential discount rates, highlighting the role of biological vulnerability in shaping time preferences.

How CEO Succession Influences Firm AI Innovation: The Role of Academic Experience Changes Tian, Z., Xiang, Y., & **Jin, Y.** Under review at **Journal of Business Research**.
Analyzes 1,776 CEO succession events in Chinese high-tech firms to examine how shifts in CEOs' academic experience impact AI innovation.

WORKING PAPERS

The Price of Waiting: Evidence on Cash–Time Trade-Offs in Vaccination Time Discount
In preparation. Target: Social Science & Medicine.
Behavioral Elasticities of Early Vaccination Incentives

Research Pipeline.
Integrates MWTA/WTW and iso-uptake surfaces to estimate incentive elasticity.
Time Preferences in Preventive Health: A Multi-Domain Behavioral Study
Research Pipeline

RESEARCH PIPELINE

Behavioral Elasticities of Early Vaccination Incentives

Develops structural simulation tools to estimate incentive elasticity of early vaccination, integrating MWTA/WTW and iso-uptake surfaces.

Time Preferences in Preventive Health: A Multi-Domain Behavioral Study

Explores whether impatience is domain-specific across vaccination, mask acquisition, and antiviral adoption.

AI-Assisted Behavioral Forecasting (SHARP + Stanford AI Certificate Integration)

Combines DCE results with machine-learning forecasting to identify high-discount subgroups for targeted public-health intervention.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE & AFFILIATIONS

Doctoral Researcher, Spatial Health AI Research Partnership (SHARP)
The University of Texas at Dallas
Interdisciplinary collaboration using geospatial analytics, AI, and behavioral science to enhance health resilience.

Graduate Researcher, Behavioral Health Economics Laboratory
UT Dallas — Vaccine uptake, discounting, and experimental design.

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.

Conference Talks

- **APPAM Fall Research Conference 2025**, (Seattle, WA), November 2025
  Title: Estimating *Time Discount Rate for Covid-like Diseases Vaccination*

Description: Presents preliminary DCE findings on how waiting time and incentives shape CLD vaccination choices, with implications for health policy design (Speaker).

- **UT Dallas Graduate Research Symposium**, Richardson, September 2025 (Accepted)
  - Title: *Modeling Vaccination Decisions with Hyperbolic Discounting*

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

Awards

• **Dean of Graduate Education Dissertation Research Award**, UT Dallas (2025)
• **Betty & Gifford Johnson Graduate Travel Award**, UT Dallas (2025)
• **Omicron Delta Epsilon**, International Honor Society for Economics
• Multiple academic excellence recognitions (UQ & UCR)

CERTIFICATIONS

• **CITI Human Subjects Protection (Social & Behavioral Research)**
Completed Oct 2022; Valid through Oct 2025
• **Stanford Artificial Intelligence Graduate Certificate**
Stanford Online, Stanford University (AI Foundations, ML, and Applications)