# Ying Chen

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| Room 360, International Innovation and Enterprise Building | E-mail: | yingchen.econ@outlook.com |
| University of Nottingham Ningbo China | Website: | https://ying-chen.github.io/ |
| 199 Taikang East Road, Ningbo, 315100, China | Phone/WeChat: | (86) 176 2125 8620 |

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## Education

2019 - 2024.6 (exp.)    Ph.D. in Economics, University of Nottingham, Ningbo, China.
                        Title: Experiments on Public Goods, Networks and Social Interactive Behaviour
                        Advisors: Stuart McDonald, Tom Lane, Chris Starmer
                        Examiners: Simon Gächter, Saileshsingh Gunessee, Simin He, Martin Sefton
2018 - 19               M.Sc. in Microeconomics and Decision Making, *Sehr Gut*, Universität Konstanz, Germany.
2017 - 18               M.Sc. in Economics, *Distinction*, University of Nottingham, U.K.
2012 - 16               B.Sc. in Economics, *First Class Honors*, University of Nottingham, Ningbo, China.

## Fields of Interests

Behavioural Economics, Experimental Economics, Network Economics, Microeconomics

## Working Papers

1. *"Endogenous Network Formation in Local Public Goods: An Experimental Analysis"*, with Tom Lane & Stuart McDonald, **revise & resubmit at Games and Economic Behavior**. Click here to download.
   **Abstract:** We experimentally explore public good production levels, and the endogenous formation of network structures to facilitate output sharing, among agents with heterogeneous production costs or valuations. Results corroborate the key theoretical insights of Kinateder & Merlino (2017) characterizing how agents form core-periphery networks. However, subjects often produce more and form denser networks than predicted, which sometimes reduces efficiency. There is some tendency for behaviour to converge towards the theoretical equilibrium over repeated play. Our results help us understand the emergence of the 'law of the few' in real-world networks, and suggest it is driven by endogenous sorting of heterogeneous agents.

2. *"Social Norm Nudging in Cooperation Behaviour"*, solo, **under review at Experimental Economics**. Click here to download.
   **Abstract:** This paper explores how norm-based information affects agents' social expectations and contribution behaviour in public good provision. I conducted a laboratory experiment and an online experiment, in which all decision scenarios of the two studies are embedded into a standard linear public goods game. The online experiment elicits the perceptions of the injunctive norms of each subject and their individual level of contribution. Using the results from the online experiment, I conduct a laboratory experiment to elicit each subject's perception of the injunctive norm, personal norm and perception of the descriptive norm, as well as the amount of their contribution. Each treatment of the lab experiment contains either one piece of information generated from the online experiment or no information (as a control). The experimental results show that norm-based information can nudge the norms in the direction of supporting a high level of contribution to the public good, which also leads to a statistically insignificant increase in the level of contribution. Moreover, each type of norm is most heavily affected by information relating to the same norm domain.

3. *"Social Identity and Network Formation in Public Good Provision"*, with Tom Lane & Stuart McDonald. Manuscript upon request.
   **Abstract:** We experimentally study the dynamic evolution of economic networks in the context of fragmented social identity. We create societies in which members can initiate and delete links to others, and then earn payoffs from a public good game played within their network. We manipulate whether the society initially consists of segregated or integrated identity groups, and also vary whether societal mobility is high or low. Results show in-group favouritism in network formation. The effects of original network structure are long-lasting, with initially segregated societies permanently exhibiting more homophilic networks than initially integrated ones. Moreover, allowing greater social mobility results in networks becoming less integrated. This occurs in part because eviction from networks is based particularly on out-group hostility when societal mobility is high, while it is particularly based on punishing free riders when mobility is low.

## Conferences & Seminar Presentations

2023                    Fudan University (China International Conference in Economics, 16/12); UNNC (School of Economics Brown Bag Seminar, 27/12; CeDEx China Brown Bag Seminar, 27/10; 2nd CeDEx China Workshop on Behavioural & Experimental Economics, Nottingham China, 06/05; 7th PGR Conference, 18/03); Hunan University (2nd Xiangjiang River Forum in Economics for Young Scholars, 26/08); Nanyang Technological University (Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society East and South-East Asia, 28/07);

2022 | Tsinghua University (Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society China, 30/06); Zhongnan University of Finance and Economics (Chinese Economists Society Annual Conference, 24/06); Wuhan University (5th China Behavioral and Experimental Economics Forum, 18/06)
2022 | Zhejiang University of Finance and Economics (4th Doctoral Student Forum on Economics, 24/12); Dongbei University of Finance and Economics (National Doctoral Student Forum on Quantitative Economics, 17/12); Hunan University (1st Xiangjiang River Forum in Economics for Young Scholars, 20/08); National University of Singapore (Conference on Mechanism and Institutional Design, 15/07)

# Awards, Grants & Scholarships

GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

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| 2023 | Graduate School Travel Grant, UNNC (RMB12,000) |
| 2021 | Graduate School Research Grant, UNNC (RMB3,092.6) |
| 2020 - 2023 | CeDEx China Project Funding, UNNC (RMB102,813.9) |
| 2019 - 2023 | School of Economics Research Grant, UNNC (RMB5,000 per annum) |
| 2019 - 2022 | Early Career Researchers Scholarship, UNNC (tuition fee waiver+ RMB54,000 per annum) |
| 2019 | Funding for Economics Experiments, Thurgauer Wirtschaftsinstitut & Konstanz LakeLab (€1,500) |
| 2018 | Master's Scholarship, Universität Konstanz (€1,500) |
| 2017 | Master's Scholarship, UNUK (£6,750) |
| 2013 - 2015 | Dean's Scholarship, UNNC (RMB6,000 per annum) |

AWARDS

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| 2023 | Tri-Campus Postgraduate Prize, UNUK & UNNC & UNMY (RMB1,000) |
| 2023 | Best Presenter Award, 7th PGR Conference, UNNC (RMB5,000) |
| 2022 | Best Paper Award, 4th Doctoral Student Forum on Economics, ZUFE (RMB3,000) |
| 2016 | Best Dissertation Award, UNNC |

# Teaching Experiences

CO-INSTRUCTOR

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|---|---|
| Spring 2021 - 2023 | Advanced Experimental & Behavioural Economics (Undergraduate Y4, slides & handouts) |
| Autumn 2022 | Advanced Microeconomics (Graduate, slides & handouts) |

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT

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|---|---|
| Spring 2021 | Introductory Econometrics (Undergraduate Y2) |
| Autumn 2020 | Mathematical Economics (Undergraduate Y2) |
| Autumn 2020 | Microeconomic Theory (Undergraduate Y3) |
| Spring 2020 | Advanced Public Economics (Undergraduate Y4, online teaching) |

# Affiliations

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| 2019 - present | Steering committee & Lab manager - Centre for Decision Research & Experimental Economics (China) |
| 2020 - 2022 | PhD representative - School of Economics, UNNC |
| 2020 - 2021 | Research assistant - Institute of Income Distribution & Public Finance, Zhongnan U of Econ & Law |

# Skills

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| Languages: | Wú Chinese (native), Mandarin (native), English (C1), German (A2) |
| Data & Lab: | Matlab, Python, R, Stata; oTree, z-Tree, ORSEE, web programming (HTML/CSS, JavaScript, PHP) |

# References

**Dr Stuart McDonald (Advisor)**
School of Economics
University of Nottingham, China
Stuart.McDonald@nottingham.edu.cn

**Dr Tom Lane (Advisor)**
Business School
Newcastle University
Tom.Lane@newcastle.ac.uk

**Professor Chris Starmer (Advisor)**
School of Economics
University of Nottingham, UK
Chris.Starmer@nottingham.ac.uk

**Dr Chew Chua (Placement officer)**
School of Economics
University of Nottingham, China
Chew.Chua@nottingham.edu.cn