

# YIQU LIU

## Curriculum Vitae

Champaign, IL U.S.A. — yiquil3@illinois.edu — (217) 305-1425 — www.yiquiliu.com

### EDUCATION

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*Doctor of Philosophy, Economics* 2020 - 2025  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL  
Research Field: Applied Micro-econometrics; Health Economics; Public Economics

*Master of Science, Policy Economics* 2018 - 2020  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL

*Bachelor of Economics, Finance* 2014 - 2018  
Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, Wuhan, China

### JOB MARKET PAPER

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#### **Equally Married, Equally Benefited: Same-sex Marriage, Health Insurance, Labor Market, and Social Security**

Abstract: This paper analyzes the economic impacts of same-sex marriage (SSM) legislation in the United States, focusing on the often-overshadowed Supreme Court decisions in *United States v. Windsor* (2013). While the Obergefell ruling of 2015 is widely recognized for mandating nationwide SSM legalization, this study concentrates on the 2013 Windsor decision that federally recognized existing same-sex marriages, granting same-sex couples access to federal benefits previously unavailable. Employing a difference-in-differences approach, I evaluate changes in health insurance, labor market outcomes, and social security among same-sex couples (SSCs). Relative to opposite-sex couples, the recognition of SSM by the federal government increased SSCs' overall insurance coverage by 2.6%, primarily via increased coverage from employment by 5%. More importantly, even in states without SSM prior to 2015, SSCs in not-yet-legal states responded with an increase of spill-over insurance coverage by 8% and employer-sponsored insurance by 4.8%, relative to SSCs in SSM-already-legal states. This study underscores the profound influence of federal policy over state legislation in shaping economic and social outcomes within the domain of public and labor economics.

### WORK IN PROGRESS

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#### **Mental Health Effect of the COVID Citywide Lockdown: A Double ML Estimation**

Abstract: This paper contributes to the growing literature studying the mental health outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic, and offers further empirical evidence of the negative mental health impact of citywide lockdowns by studying the lockdown happened in Shanghai, People's Republic of China during April, and May 2022. Both my baseline OLS and Double Machine Learning (DML) estimation show that Baidu searches among locked down Shanghai residents of keywords including "depression" and "anxiety" statistically significantly increased during the citywide lockdown. Baidu searches on "suicide" shows mixed results, indicating potential heterogeneity among residents.

#### **The Impact of Medicaid Expansion on Health Insurance Coverage and Health Outcome**

Abstract: The Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010 expanded the eligibility of Medicaid, which proves to significantly promote insurance coverage. This paper focuses on the dynamic effect of the change in policy using a staggered Differences-in-differences method, as well as the heterogeneous responses from groups that implemented the expansion later in time. I documented additional evidence that the ACA expansion on Medicaid eligibility increased the health insurance take-up rate by at least 6.7%, and the effects are persistent over a longer period. At the same time, later expansion states exhibited smaller increases.

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Referee for *Environmental Research Letters*

## CONFERENCE/SEMINAR PRESENTATIONSS

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5\*Applied Micro Research Lunch, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2022 - 2024  
3\*Job Market Research Seminar, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2023 - 2024  
The 12th Annual Midwest Graduate Student Summit on Applied Economics, Regional and Urban Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2019

## TEACHING

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Teaching Assistant 2019 - 2024  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
**List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent By Their Students (Spring 2024)**  
Intermediate Macroeconomics (Undergraduate, Fall 2024)  
Macroeconomic Principles (Undergraduate, Fall 2020 - Spring 2024)  
Microeconomics (Graduate, Spring 2019 - Fall 2019)  
Strategic Innovation (Graduate, Fall 2018 - Spring 2019)

## HONORS AND CERTIFICATIONS

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The Omicron Delta Epsilon International Honor Society in Economics

IBM Data Science Professional Certificate

## PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

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**Language**  
Mandarin Chinese (Native), English (Full professional proficiency)

**Skill**  
STATA, Python, SQL, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, SPSS

## REFERENCES

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**Alexander W. Bartik**  
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