

YUJIE ZHANG

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental Economics, Economics of Education, Health Economics

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Houston, TX, US, 2020 - 2025 (*expected*)

M.A. in Economics and Finance, Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea, 2016 - 2018

B.E. in Ocean and Naval Engineering, Tianjin University, Tianjin, China, 2012 - 2016

WORKING PAPERS

"The Long-Term Human Capital Consequences of Exposures to Natural Disasters: Evidence from India" [\[Draft\]](#)

Abstract: Linking over 500 natural disasters in India with panel survey data, I construct a sample of 71,000 individuals in adolescence and adulthood, with natural disaster exposure trajectories in early life. Exploiting geographical and temporal variations in the exposures, the study indicates that early-life exposures to natural disasters leads to lower educational attainment, higher prevalence of chronic health conditions, and reduces labor force participation in general and monthly or annually paid employment.

Presentations: [SEA 2024](#); [AASLE 2024](#)

Data: (1) [India Human Development Survey \(IHDS\)](#); (2) [India Census](#)

"Are Natural Disasters Disastrous for Learning? Evidence from Seven Asian Countries", with Jere Behrman, Emily Hannum, Minhaj Mahmud, and Fan Wang [\[Draft\]](#) [\[Slides\]](#) [Under Review](#)

Abstract: We estimate natural-disaster impacts on children's school enrollments and math skills and test for impact heterogeneities with respect to age and gender by linking survey data on children aged 5 to 17 to time- and geo-coded disaster variables. We find significant negative effects of early life natural-disaster exposures on enrollments and math skills and the effects differ across genders, ages, and regions.

Presentations: [ADB Conference on Increasing the Resilience of Education Systems in Asia and the Pacific](#); [PDRI-DevLab Workshop](#); [Penn-Houston Climate, Environment, and Child Development Workshop](#); [SWUFE SoE Workshop](#); [CIES 2024](#); [PAA 2024](#); [AMES 2024 China](#); [AEDC 2024](#)

Data: (1) [UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys \(MICS\)](#); (2) [EM-DAT Disaster Database](#)

WORK IN PROGRESS

"The Effect of Children Gender on Younger Siblings' Health Outcomes"

Data: [Demographic and Health Surveys \(DHS\)](#)

PUBLICATIONS

"News-driven Business Cycles: Evidence from Investors' Expectations of Future Stock Market Returns", with Deokwoo Nam, *Journal of Economic Research*, 27.1 (2022): 1-22. [\[Download\]](#)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Consultant, [Asian Development Bank](#), *Jul 2024 - present*

Project: Strengthening Policies on Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific

Supervisor: Minhaj Mahmud

Abstract: (1) Identify heat hot spots at both national and local levels in selected Asian countries. (2) Investigate the impacts and quantify the economic costs of climate change on human capital.

Data: (1) [ERA5-HEAT temperature data](#); (2) [Satellite-derived PM2.5 data](#)

Doctorate Researcher, [PIRE Project](#), *Jan 2023 - present*

Investigators: Emily Hannum, Jere Behrman, and Fan Wang

Abstract: [Climate risk, pollution, and childhood inequalities in low- and middle-income countries](#)

Partners: University of Pennsylvania, University of Houston, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Regional Institute for Population Studies in Ghana, UNICEF, and World Bank

Graduate Researcher, [Institute for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality](#), *Jun 2022 - Jun 2023*

Summary: (1) Census Household Pulse Survey analysis: Tracked households' experience with hardship and recovery from the Pandemic in Houston/Harris County and how it differs by gender, sexual orientation, and household income level. (2) LGBTQ+ support project.

Data: (1) [Census Household Pulse Survey](#); (2) Original data collected from [Montrose Center](#)

Research Assistant, Prof. Elaine M. Liu, University of Houston, *Feb 2022*

Summary: Analyzed county-level data spanning 15 years on car accident mortality related to alcohol use, as well as mortality and morbidity from liver disease.

Data: (1) [Fatality Analysis Reporting System \(FARS\) data from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration \(NHTSA\)](#); (2) [National Health Interview Survey \(NHIS\)](#); (3) [Mortality Multiple Cause Files](#); (4) [Multiple Cause of Death Data on CDC WONDER](#); (5) [NBER Mortality Data](#)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, University of Houston, *Spring 2024*

Course: Principles of Microeconomics (Undergraduate Level)

Summary: (1) Developed course materials, including syllabus, lecture slides, assignments, and exams. Delivered lectures twice a week, each 1.5 hours long [\[Syllabus link\]](#). (2) Evaluation: Outperformed the department and college averages in 8 out of 14 evaluation questions, demonstrating strong teaching effectiveness [\[Report link\]](#).

Lecturer, Ph.D. Math Camp, University of Houston, *Summer 2021, Summer 2022, Summer 2023*

Teaching Assistant, Prof. Nathan J. Canen, University of Houston, *Spring 2022*

Course: Econometrics I (**Ph.D. Level**)

Summary: Held TA session for Ph.D. students in Economics and Business school every week.

Teaching Assistant, Prof. Janet E. Kohlase, University of Houston, *Fall 2021*

Course: Microeconomics I (**Ph.D. Level**)

Summary: (1) Graded homework and held TA session every week. (2) Evaluation: 5/5 for "The teaching assistant was receptive to questions"; 4.9/5 for "The teaching assistant was available for assistance to students" (department average was 4/5).

Teaching Assistant, Prof. Eleanor Jawon Choi, Hanyang University, *Mar 2017 - Jul 2018*

Courses: Introductory Mathematical Economics, Econometrics, Empirical Methods in Applied Microeconomics, Career Development, and Applied Econometrics (**Graduate Level**)

Summary: (1) Graded problem sets and exams, and hosted office hours for more than 150 students each semester. (2) Assisted professor with course materials, attendance checking, monitoring exams, managing records and the statistics of students' performance.

WORKING EXPERIENCE

Full-time Client Manager, Bank of Communications, Jiangsu, China, *Aug 2018 - Sep 2019*

Provided investment advice for clients on fixed-term deposits, bonds, forex investments, and insurance. Served as vice organizer for the Suzhou Gusu branch in a competition, achieving the "Four-Star Best Service Bank Branch" award from the China Banking Association.

Intern, China Construction Bank, Sichuan, China, *Jun - Aug 2017*

Analyzed housing loans and mortgage applications and participated in post-loan supervision.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND SERVICES

Coordinator, [UH Econ Student Brown Bag Seminar](#), University of Houston, *Fall 2023, Spring 2024*

Cullen Graduate Fellowship Travel Grant, University of Houston, *Apr 2024*

Graduate Fellowship, University of Houston, *Sep 2020 - present*

Teaching Assistantship, Hanyang University, *Mar 2017 - Jul 2018*

TOPIK Scholarship, Hanyang University, *Dec 2017, Mar 2018*

SKILLS

Languages: Mandarin (Native), English (Fluent), Korean (Intermediate)

Computer: Python, Stata, \LaTeX , R, Matlab

Hobbies: Badminton, Swimming, Calligraphy, Piano