

Zhejian Wang

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Education

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Delaware, Newark, DE, USA, 2020–May 2026 (expected).

M.A. in Economics, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA, 2015–2016.

B.A. in Management, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, Chengdu, China, 2010–2014.

Research Fields

Development Economics; Education Economics; Digital Policy.

Job Market Paper

Restricting Video Games in China: Effects on Time Use, Educational Achievement, and Health

Journal of Development Economics, invited to resubmit (major revision); resubmitted October 2025.

This paper examines China's 2021 restriction on minors' video gaming using nationally representative survey data and administrative records. Exploiting quasi-experimental variation across cohorts and regions, I estimate how the policy altered adolescents' time use, study behavior, and health outcomes. The results show sharp declines in online activity but limited gains in academic performance or well-being, underscoring that behavioral regulation alone may not improve human capital without complementary support.

Other Research

Working Papers

Restricting Minors' Online Gaming: Compliance, Evasion, and Market Responses in China.

Using difference-in-differences and event-study analyses of mobile-app data, this chapter evaluates China's 2021 restriction limiting minors' gaming to one hour on weekends. The policy sharply reduced usage of youth-oriented games, had milder effects on adult games, and boosted substitutes such as e-books and social media. Gaming activity fell on weekdays but concentrated on permitted weekends, reflecting strategic adaptation. Downloads and revenue declined unevenly across firms, with some adjusting business models or targeting adult users. The findings reveal heterogeneous behavioral and market responses to strict digital regulation in a developing economy.

Papers in Progress

Property Rights and Family Formation: Evidence from China's 2011 Marriage Law Interpretation.

Research Experience

Research Assistant to Prof. David Stockman, University of Delaware, Spring 2024.

Assisted in organizing research and instructional resources for the graduate program, including compiling course materials, coordinating digital-learning platforms, and developing standardized resources for Ph.D. instruction.

Teaching Experience

Instructor

Introduction to Microeconomics (ECON 101), Fall 2022.

Introduction to Macroeconomics (ECON 103), Spring 2023.

Teaching Assistant

Data Analysis for Economics and Business (ECON 306), Spring 2025.

Introduction to Management Information Systems (MISY 261), Spring 2024.

Quantitative Microeconomic Theory (ECON 301), Fall 2023.

Urban Economics (ECON 393), Fall 2023.

Microeconomic Theory I (ECON 811, Graduate), Fall 2021.

Microeconomic Theory II (ECON 813, Graduate), Spring 2022.

Economics of Health Policy, Fall 2021.

Fellowships & Awards

Graduate Fellowship, Department of Economics, University of Delaware, 2020–2025.
Funded through full fellowship and teaching assistantship.

Third-Year Summer Research Stipend, University of Delaware, Summer 2023.

Employment

Caitong Securities Co., Ltd., Shanghai, China, 2017–2020.

Assistant Analyst (2017–2018); Analyst (2019–2020), Equity Research Division.

Conducted equity research on Internet and media industries, including firm-level financial analysis, policy evaluation, and sectoral trend assessment. Licensed Securities Analyst in Mainland China and Hong Kong; passed all three levels of the CFA Program.

Seminars & Conferences

University of Delaware ESGA Conference, Newark, DE, October 2025.

Presented “Restricting Video Games in China: Effects on Time Use, Educational Achievement, and Health.”

University of Delaware Economics Symposium, Newark, DE, 2022–2024.

Presented “Restricting Video Games in China: Effects on Time Use, Educational Achievement, and Health” and “Restricting Minors’ Online Gaming: Compliance, Evasion, and Market Responses in China.”

Languages and Software

Mandarin Chinese (native), English (fluent)

Stata, R, Python, L^AT_EX, SQL

References

Jeremy Tobacman (Chair)

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Emily L. Battaglia

Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Delaware

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Website: emilylbattaglia.com

Desmond J. Toohey

Financial Economist, Division of Economic and Risk Analysis, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

Formerly Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Delaware

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George Parsons

Professor, School of Marine Science & Policy, University of Delaware

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