

Zi Yang Kang

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Employment

University of Toronto

Assistant Professor of Economics 2024–Present

Harvard University

Postdoctoral Fellow, Center of Mathematical Sciences and Applications 2023–2024

Education

Ph.D. in Economic Analysis and Policy, Stanford Graduate School of Business 2018–2023

M.S. in Mathematics, Stanford University 2017–2018

B.S. with Honors in Mathematics, Stanford University 2014–2017

Publications

Kang, Z.Y., and Vasserman, S. (2025). Robustness Measures for Welfare Analysis.
EC'22; American Economic Review, 115(8), 2449–87. (Lead Article)

Working Papers

“[Optimal Redistribution Through Subsidies](#)” with Mitchell Watt

“[Optimal In-Kind Redistribution](#)” with Mitchell Watt

Accepted for presentation at EC'25

“[Optimal Indirect Regulation of Externalities](#)”

Accepted for presentation at EC'23

“[The Public Option and Optimal Redistribution](#)”

Accepted for presentation at EC'21

“[Contracting and Vertical Control by a Dominant Platform](#)” with Ellen V. Muir

Accepted for presentation at EC'22

“[Fixed-Price Approximations to Optimal Efficiency in Bilateral Trade](#)” with Jan Vondrák

Selected Work in Progress

“Pareto-Improving Priority Pricing” with Piotr Dworczak

Conference Publications

“**Fixed-Price Approximations in Bilateral Trade**” with Francisco Pernice and Jan Vondrák, in *Proceedings of the 2022 Annual ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA’22)*, pp. 2964–2985, 2022.

Other Publications

“**General Theories of Reflection and Transmission Scratch Holograms**” with Bingjian Li, Jiahuang Lin, Ye Yeo, and Guoxian Tan, in *Canadian Journal of Physics*, **95**(5), pp. 432–439, 2017.

“**The Vertical Oscillations of Coupled Magnets**” with Kewei Li, Jiahuang Lin, Samuel Yee and Jeremias Wong in *European Journal of Physics* [Special Issue] **32**(4), pp. S1–S14, 2011.

Honors and Fellowships

Connaught New Researcher Award, University of Toronto	2025
Regulatory Policy Fellowship, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR)	2022
Jaedicke Merit Award, Stanford Graduate School of Business	2018
Phi Beta Kappa	2018
Firestone Medal for Excellence in Undergraduate Research, Stanford University	2017
J. E. Wallace Sterling Award for Scholastic Achievement, Stanford University	2017
President’s Award for Academic Excellence in the Freshman Year, Stanford University	2015
Gold Medal, International Physics Olympiad	2011
Gold Medal (Champion Team), International Young Physicists’ Tournament	2010

Seminars and Conferences

2025–2026

Scheduled: NAWM · NYU · Pennsylvania

2024–2025

Caltech · Cornell (Johnson College of Business) · Florida State · National University of Singapore · Rochester (Simon Business School) · Princeton · Waterloo

Columbia Conference on Economic Theory · NAWM · Triangle Microeconomics Conference

2023–2024

Harvard/MIT · Microsoft Research · Warwick · Wisconsin–Madison (Macroeconomics)

Cowles Conference on Economic Theory · GAMES · NASM

2022–2023

Bocconi (Decision Sciences) · Georgia · Michigan · Northwestern (Kellogg School of Management) · Pittsburgh · Rochester (Simon Business School) · National University of Singapore · Toronto · Yale (School of Management) · NT23TM · Group for Research in Applied Economics

we Berkeley/Columbia/Duke/MIT/Northwestern IO Theory Conference · EC'23 · FTC Microeconomics Conference · Markets, Contracts, and Organizations Conference

Prior

Group for Research in Applied Economics · EC'22 · EC'21 · INFORMS 2021 · Young Researcher Workshop on Economics and Computation (YoungEC'19)

Professional Service

Refereeing

American Economic Review · AER Insights · Econometrica · Economic Journal · International Journal of Industrial Organization · Journal of Economic Theory · Journal of Industrial Economics · Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization · Journal of Political Economy · Mathematics of Operations Research · Quarterly Journal of Economics · RAND Journal of Economics · Review of Economic Studies

Grant Review

National Science Foundation

Seminar and Conference Organization

University of Toronto Economic Theory Seminar (2024–present) · Canadian Economic Theory Conference (2024)

Conference Program Committee Participation

ACM Conference on Economics and Computation (2024, 2025)

Conference Discussion

Theory@PennState Conference (2023)

Other

Economics arXiv moderator for econ.GN (2024, 2025)