

ZIWEI RAO

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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral researcher <i>University of Helsinki</i>	Dec. 2022 – present <i>Helsinki, Finland</i>
Guest researcher <i>Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research</i>	Nov. 2022 – present <i>Rostock, Germany</i>
Lecturer <i>Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Groningen</i>	Dec. 2021 – Aug. 2022 <i>Groningen, Netherlands</i>

EDUCATION

Ph.D. candidate <i>Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Groningen</i> Supervisors: R.J.M. (Rob) Alessie and Max Groneck	Sept. 2018 – Jan. 2023 <i>Groningen, Netherlands</i>
Research Master in Economics <i>University of Groningen</i>	Sept. 2016 – Sept. 2018 <i>Groningen, Netherlands</i>

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My primary field of research is applied microeconomics, with an emphasis on labor and family studies.

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS

- **“Early-Life Transfers for Education and Marriage and Children’s Old-Age Support: Time Or Money?”** with Max Groneck and Rob Alessie (*Journal of the Economics of Ageing*, 2025).
Q: Do different kinds of early-life transfers received from parents influence the location decision of the child and, hence, the differential caregiving at older ages?
- **“Declining Fertility, Human Capital Investment, and Economic Sustainability”** with Mikko Myrskylä, Julia Hellstrand, Sampo Lappo, Angelo Lorenti, Jessica Nisen, and Heikki Tikanmäki (*Demography*, 2025) [*PolicyBrief*].
Q: To what extent could investments in human capital offset the adverse economic impact of low fertility on pension sustainability?
- **“Children or Work? The Impact of Fertility on Old-age Labour Supply”** with Yi Zhang (*World Development*, 2024).
Q: Does having more children or more male descendants, potentially as old-age security, save elder parents from “working until you drop”?
- **“Educational Tracking and Fertility”** with Julia Hellstrand and Mikko Myrskylä [*Working Paper*].
Q: Could education policy on school tracking unexpectedly lead to fertility consequences?
- **“Employment Uncertainty and Fertility Decisions”** with Liina Junna, Mikko Myrskylä, and Pekka Martikainen.
Q: How does employment uncertainty led by workplace closure influence fertility outcomes across life stages?
- **“Trapped by Good Years – The Economic Impact of Weather Shocks”** with Xiaobing Wang and Guochang Zhao [*ThesisVersion*].
Q: How do rural families fare economically under weather risks with migration responses? Is good weather necessarily a good thing for the total household income?

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- BIOSFER Conference, Menaggio 2025
- Flux fertility themed workshop, Helsinki; (invited) INVEST Seminar on Intergenerational Inequalities, Turku 2024
- Spring Meeting of Young Economists (SMYE), Turin 2023
- Ca' Foscari – Groningen Exchange Seminar, Venice; Annual Meeting of Society of the Economics of the Household (SEHO), London; Annual Conference of the European Society for Population Economics (ESPE), Calabria. 2022
- German Economic Association (VfS) Annual Conference (online); European Association of Labour Economics Annual Conference (EALE) (online); Pension Day of Network for Studies on Pensions, Aging and Retirement (Netspar), Utrecht; Leiden work-in-progress seminar, Leiden University (online); SOM PhD conference (online). 2021
- Annual Congress of European Economics Association (EEA) (online); New Paper Session of the Royal Dutch Economic Association (online); EEF brownbag seminar, Groningen. 2020
- Pension Day of Network for Studies on Pensions, Aging and Retirement (Netspar), Utrecht. 2019

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE

- Master level:
 - Gender, Family and Inequality, Guest Lecture 2023/24, 2024/25
 - Research Methods in Finance, STATA Computer Practical 2018/19
- Bachelor level:
 - Statistics II for International Business, Tutorial 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21
 - Economics for IB, Tutorial 2021/22
 - Statistics I for IB, Tutorial 2021/22
- Thesis supervision:
 - Bachelor's Thesis Economics (6); Master's Thesis Economics (4) 2021/22

HONORS, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICES

- Affiliate at Max Planck – Uni Helsinki Center for Social Inequalities in Population Health 2023-
- Affiliate at ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research (CEPAR) 2021-
- Full Scholarship of Research Master, University of Groningen 2016/17, 2017/2018
- Excellent Graduate of Zhejiang province 2016
- Outstanding scholarships, Zhejiang Gongshang University 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16
- Referee work for SMYE, European Journal of Population, Plos one.

LANGUAGE

Chinese (native), English (fluent), Dutch (A2).

OTHER SKILLS

STATA, Matlab, SPSS, Latex.

REFERENCES

Available upon request.