

ZIWEI RAO

ziweirao.github.io | ziwei.rao@helsinki.fi | 01st October, 1995

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) [[Link](#)].
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) [[Link](#)][[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) [[Link](#)].
Q: Does having more children or more male descendants, potentially as old-age security, save elder parents from “working until you drop”?
- **“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?
- **“Comprehensive school reform and fertility consequences”** with Julia Hellstrand and Mikko Myrskylä [Extended abstract available upon request]
Q: Could education policy unexpectedly lead to fertility consequences?
- **“Employment Uncertainty and Fertility: Abortion and Assisted Reproduction”** with Liina Junna, Mikko Myrskylä, and Pekka Martikainen
Q: How does employment uncertainty led by workplace closure influence fertility outcomes via pregnancy termination and changes in the use of assisted reproductive technology?

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 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
- Accepted (canceled due to COVID-19): Symposium of Junior Researchers of Royal Economic Society (RES), Annual Meeting of Society of the Economics of the Household (SEHO), Annual Conference of the European Society for Population Economics (ESPE).

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.