

Yaling Xu

FAIR Centre
Department of Economics
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EMPLOYMENT

Postdoctoral Fellow, FAIR Centre, Department of Economics, Norwegian School of Economics, 2026–Present.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Cornell University, 2026

M.A. in Computational Social Science (Economics concentration), University of Chicago, 2020

B.A. in Business Administration, Nanjing University, 2018

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Health Economics

WORKING PAPERS

1. “Does Coursework Matter? Uncovering the Role of Skills in the Returns to College.”
2. “Mobile Internet and Mental Health” (with Lipeng Chen).
3. “Causal Inference in Staggered Adoption Panels: The Correct Comparison Units Depend on Your Intervention” (with Ian Lundberg).

SELECTED WORK-IN-PROGRESS

1. “Meetings” (with David Deming, Katrine Løken, and Alexander Willén).
2. “Degrees for GPTs: The Effects of Generative AI on Skill Demand and Supply” (with Samuel Dodini and Tucker Smith).
3. “University Courses and Teacher Value-Added” (with Jian Zou).

AWARDS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Norwegian Research Council, Top International Researcher, Researcher (\$600k), 2025

Ernest Liu '64, Ta-Chung and Ya-Chao Liu Memorial Fellowship, Cornell University, 2025.

Brooks School of Public Policy Outstanding PhD Research Paper Award, Cornell University, 2024.

Tapan Mitra Memorial Prize (best third-year paper), Department of Economics, Cornell University, 2023.

Research Support Grant, Cornell Population Center, Cornell University, 2023.

Small Grants in Labor Economics, Cornell University, 2023.

Passed with Distinction, First-Year Ph.D. Sequence, Department of Economics, Cornell University, 2021.

Sage Fellowship, Cornell University, 2020–2025.

Social Sciences Scholarship, University of Chicago, 2019.

People's Scholarship (academic merit scholarship, top 3% in department), 2016.

PRESENTATIONS AND SEMINARS

2026 Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) Annual Meeting; Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting; American Causal Inference Conference*.

2025 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Conference; American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting*; Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM).

2023–2024 Labor Work-in-Progress Seminar; Health Economics Seminar, Cornell University.

* Co-author presentation (partial list)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, Cornell University, 2022–2024.

Advisors: Nicolas Bottan and Colleen Carey.

Research Assistant, University of Chicago, 2019–2020.

Advisors: Robert Kaestner, Dan Black, and Carolyn Mary Sloane.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

PUBPOL 2100: Intermediate Microeconomics, Cornell University, Spring 2024[†]

ECON 3850: Economics and Environmental Policy, Cornell University, Fall 2023.

ECON 3670: Behavioral Economics and Public Policy, Cornell University, Spring 2022.

PAM 2100: Introduction to Statistics, Cornell University, Fall 2021[†]

[†] Lead accompanying sections

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Experimentation and Causal Inference Intern, Netflix, Los Gatos, CA, May–August 2023.

Research Intern, Women’s World Banking, New York, NY, June–August 2019.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

Referee service: Journal of Human Resources; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; European Association of Young Economists (EAYE) Annual Meeting.

Affiliations: Graduate Affiliate, Inequality Data Science Lab; Cornell Center for the Study of Inequality; Cornell Population Center; Cornell Center for Social Sciences.

Department service: Mentor, Field of Economics Mentorship Program, 2022–2024; Member, Diversity in Cornell Economics.

SELECTED SKILLS

Software and programming: Python, Stata, R, SQL, Git, L^AT_EX.

Methods and tools: causal inference/econometrics, natural language processing, machine learning, text mining, data scraping.