

# Xiaoyang Ye

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## Positions

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- 2022- Economist II, Amazon
- 2020-22 Postdoctoral Research Associate in Education Policy, Annenberg Institute at Brown
- 2019-20 Postdoctoral Research Associate in Economics of Education, Princeton; Visiting Researcher, Yale

## Research Interests: Data Science and Behavioral Science for Human Decisions

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- *Career goal?* Conduct actionable, socially impactful research to promote human capital development
- *How?* Applied econometrics (RCT + quasi-experimental designs), data science, behavioral economics

## Education

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- 2019 University of Michigan Ph.D. Higher Education (*Concentration: Economics*)
- 2013 Peking University M.A. Economics of Education
- 2010 Peking University B.A. Economics

## Dissertation

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“Improving College Choice for the Poorest Students Using Behavioral Policy Interventions” [\[link\]](#)

*Committee:* Susan Dynarski (co-chair), Brian Jacob (co-chair), Stephen DesJardins, Brian McCall, Jeffrey Smith

## Awards and Honors

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- 2022 Thomas B. Fordham Institute & American Enterprise Institute, Emerging Education Policy Scholars
- 2021 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) #AEFPoem Award
- 2021 Best Paper Award on Education Finance for Chinese Economists Under 40 (with student coauthors)
- 2020 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Jean Flanigan Outstanding Dissertation Award
- 2020 University of Michigan, Stanley E. and Ruth B. Diamond Best Dissertation Award
- 2020 The Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Students Studying Abroad
- 2018 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) New Scholar Award
- 2018 University of Michigan, Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship
- 2017 National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship
- 2017 Best Paper Award on Education Finance for Chinese Economists Under 40 (*Inaugural*)
- 2016 University of Michigan, International Institute Individual Fellow
- 2014 University of Michigan, *Becoming Educators of Tomorrow* Rising Scholar Award
- 2013 University of Michigan, School of Education Scholar Award
- 2013 University of Michigan, University Regents Fellowship
- 2013 Beijing Department of Education & Peking University, *Summa Cum Laude*
- 2012 China Ministry of Education, National Graduate Scholarship (*Inaugural*)
- 2011 Peking University, *Weifang Min* Education Research Scholarship & *Lee Wai Wing* Fellowship
- 2010 Best Student Paper of 2010 China Economics of Education Annual Conference
- 2010 Peking University, First Class University Fellowship

## Research Papers

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### *Publications (\* authorship not randomized)*

1. Improving college choice for the poorest students: Results from randomized experiments in centralized admissions, **Education Finance and Policy**, 2022
2. Still want to be a doctor? Medical student dropout in the era of COVID-19, with Muxin Zhai et al., **Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization**, 2022
3. More money on learning, less learning loss? **The Learning Curve at Urban Institute** (internally reviewed), 2022
4. Going global: New evidence on the international graduate school choice of Chinese outbound students, with Suhong Yang, Dean He, **Higher Education**, 2022 [\[link\]](#)
5. Prosocial modeling matters, **Annals of Medicine**, with Dan Wang, Hongbin Wu, 2022\*
6. Centralization vs. decentralization: The financing of public primary education in China, with Wei Ha and Dongyang Chen, **Recent Advancements in Education Finance and Policy** (eds. Thomas Downes, Kieran Killeen), 2022
7. Heterogeneous major preferences for extrinsic incentives: The effects of wage information on the gender gap in STEM major choice, with Wei Li et al., **Research in Higher Education**, 2021
8. Expanding online education for future doctors on a national scale, with Hongbin Wu et al., **BMC Medical Education**, 2021\*
9. The elite exclusion: Stratified access and production during higher education expansion, with Yanqing Ding, Yinduo Wu, Jin Yang, **Higher Education**, 2021
10. Traditional dietary habits and interprovincial migration in college choice: Evidence From Ningxia in China, with Le Kang, Yanqing Ding, **ECNU Review of Education**, 2020
11. Intergovernmental transfer under heterogeneous accountabilities: The effects of the 2006 Chinese Education Finance Reform, with Yanqing Ding, Fengming Lu, **Economics of Education Review**, 2020

### *Working papers and under review papers*

12. When information conflicts with obligations: The role of motivated cognition, with Ao Wang, Shaoda Wang, [NBER Working Paper 30581](#), *revise & resubmit*
13. Migrant children's take-up of social health insurance: Experimental evidence from China, with Menghan Shen, Zhiwei Tang, *revise & resubmit*
14. College-major choice to college-then-major choice: Experimental evidence from Chinese college admissions reforms, with Liping Ma et al., *revise & resubmit*
15. Impacts of academic mismatch on college and labor market outcomes, with Xin Li, Xiaogang Wu, *revise & resubmit*
16. Impacts of village preschools on student enrollment and longer-term outcomes: New evidence from the poorest regions in China, with Shuangye Chen et al., *revise & resubmit*
17. Using text-messages to overcome parenting barriers in under-resourced communities: Evidence from a field experiment in rural China, with Yue Ma, Susanna Loeb et al., *under review*
18. Experimental evidence on the effects of systematic phonics, with Xinjie Zhang, *under review*

19. Do teachers' college prepare better teachers? with Qi Zheng et al., *under review*
20. Improving access to high-quality teachers in underdeveloped areas: Evidence from Free Teacher Education in China, with Muxin Zhai, Li Feng, *under review*
21. Information nudge in U.S. health education, with Muxin Zhai, Li Feng, *under review*
22. Impacts of meta major reforms on student composition, with Xin Li et al., *under review*
23. The road not taken: Unequal pathways through high school mathematics coursetaking, with Susanna Loeb, 2022
24. Personalized advising for college match: Experimental evidence on the use of human expertise and machine learning to improve college choice, 2022
25. Cognitive distortions in complex decisions: Evidence from centralized college admission, with Ao Wang, Shaoda Wang, 2022
26. Inequality in college applications: Evidence from three continents, with Adam Altjmed, Andres Barrios Fernandez, Aspacia Bizopoulou, Martti Kaila, Christopher Neilson, and Sebastian Otero, 2022
27. The promise of online learning to improve human capital accumulation by reducing the opportunity cost of schooling, with Di Xu, 2022
28. Intergenerational mobility effects of regional education and migration policy in China, with Jonas Jin, Alan Yang, 2022
29. New college campus and local economic growth, with Dongyang Chen, Wei Ha, 2022
30. Intrinsic and extrinsic incentives in medical education, with Hongbin Wu, Hang Yu et al., 2022
31. Impacts of meta major reforms, with Le Kang et al., 2022
32. How college choices disadvantage disadvantaged students under centralized college admissions systems? with Prashant Loyalka, Binzhen Wu, 2020

### Peer Reviewed Publications in Chinese

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1. Mismatch between college-majors and occupations, with Suhong Yang, **Peking University Education Review**, 2022
2. Health insurance RCT, with Menghan Shen, Xiangrui Zheng., **Insurance Studies**, 2022
3. Medical school advising, with Yuchen Yang et al., **Chinese Journal of Medical Education**, 2022
4. STEM major restrictions, with Shangcong Bu, Liping Ma, **China Higher Education Research**, 2022
5. COVID and medical student attrition, with Xuanxuan Ma et al., **Fudan Education Forum**, 2021
6. Impacts of academic mismatch on college success, with Qionqiong Wang et al., **China Economics of Education Review**, 2021
7. College and economic development: Evidence from new college campuses, with Wei Ha, Dongyang Chen, **Peking University Education Review**, 2021
8. The impact of informational interventions on college-major choice: Evidence from a large-scale randomized experiment, with Lizhen Du et al., **China Economic Quarterly**, 2021
9. The impacts of college admissions reforms," with Liping Ma et al., **China Higher Education Research**, 2021
10. Retaking college entrance exam: Evidence from a regression discontinuity design, with Yan Zhang et al., **Global Education**, 2019

11. Who benefits from college expansion in China? Part 2, with Yanqing Ding, Yinduo Wu, Jin Yang, **Journal of National Academy of Education Administration**, 2019
12. Who benefits from college expansion in China? Part 1, with Yanqing Ding, Yinduo Wu, Jin Yang, **Research in Education Development**, 2019
13. Undermatched college choice among low-income students, with Si Chen et al., **China Economics of Education Review**, 2018
14. Gaokao and education investment: Public high school performance pay under accountability, with Yinduo Wu, Jin Yang, **Education & Economy**, 2017
15. Why have some local governments closed more rural schools than others?, with Yanqing Ding, Shaoda Wang, **China Economics of Education Review**, 2016 (lead article)
16. Expanding Chinese higher education: Quality and social stratification, with Yanqing Ding, **Chinese Journal of Sociology**, 2015
17. The causal effects of high school choice, with Jinling Chen, Yanqing Ding, **Education Research Monthly Review**, 2014
18. Local government incentives, fiscal constraint and education expenditure, in Lin et al. (eds) **Tax Reform and Sustainable Development in China**, China Finance & Economics Press, 2013
19. Parental political capital and children's school choice: Evidence from China, **World Economics Papers**, 2012
20. Village schools: A symbol of the nation or deformation of the city?, **RUC Education Journal**, 2011

## Recent Presentations

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2022-23: National Forum on Empirical Research in Education (keynote speaker), Southwest University, Sun Yat-sen University, Summit on Holistic College Admissions (University of Michigan)\* (\* scheduled)

2021-22: Access to Medical School and Professional Pathways Workshop (WZB Berlin Social Science Center), AEA, AEF, AERA, APPAM, ASHE, Brown University (Annenberg), ECNU, ETS, International Conference of Artificial Intelligence & Technology-Enhanced Language Learning (keynote speaker), Northeast Economics of Education Workshop (Yale), Rhode Island Department of Education, Peking University, Beijing Normal University, East China Normal University, Tsingdao University, Taipei Technology University

2020-21: Advances with Field Experiment, AEA, AEF, AERA, Brown University (Annenberg, Taubman), CEFP (invited speaker), CPSG (invited speaker), Education RCT in China Conference, Peking University (CIEFR, GSE), SISU, University of Michigan (CIERS, SOE), University of Virginia, WEA

2019-20: AEF, AERA, APPAM, Northeast Economics of Education Workshop (Amherst College), Brown University\*, Chinese Economists Society North America Conference (MIT), CUFE, Princeton University\*, International Conference on Human Capital and Economic Development in China (University at Buffalo), NUFE, University of Chicago\*, Yale University\* (\* canceled due to COVID-19)

2018-19: Advances with Field Experiment, AEF, AERA, ASHE, National Academy of Education Retreat, RAND Corporation, Tsinghua University (Education), University of Michigan (CIERS, Education, Ford), University of Washington (Evans), University of Wisconsin-Madison (EPS)

## Referee Services

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*AEFP* Conference, *AERA* Conference (Postsecondary education, teacher education, educational policy), *ASHE* Conference (Policy and economics), *American Journal of Education*, *Applied Economics*, *Applied Sciences*, *China*

*Economic Quarterly, Chinese Sociological Review, Current Psychology, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic Journal, ECNU Review of Education, Economics of Education Review, Education Finance and Policy, Education Sciences, Empirical Economics, Humanities & Social Sciences Communications, Journal of Human Capital, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, PloS One, Research in Higher Education, Review of Economics and Statistics*

## Teaching

### *Program Co-Coordinator & Instructor*

Undergraduate Fellowship in Education and Social Policy, Brown University	2022
National Fellowship in Education Finance and Policy, Peking University	2022-23

### *Workshop*

Xiaoyang Ye Workshop Series on Causal Inference Checklist	2022
ECNS-ROE-EEL Economics of Education Seminar (co-coordinator)	2022

### *Guest Lecturer*

<b>Behavioral economics for people</b> (Beijing Normal University)	2022
<b>Data science in education policy</b> (Brown Undergrad Fellows for Education and Social Policy)	2021
<b>Machine learning in RCT designs</b> (University of Florida, Instructor: Wei Li)	2021
<b>Empirical research on economic inequality</b> (Bronx High School of Science, NY)	2021
<b>Big data and public policy</b> (CUFE, Instructor: Suhong Yang)	2020
<b>Improving college choice using data/science</b> (Chongqing Bashu Secondary School, ≈5,000)	2020/21
<b>Research design in K-12 and higher education</b> (ECNU, Instructor: Shuangye Chen)	2020/21/22
<b>Economics of higher education</b> (University of Florida, Instructor: Isaac McFarlin, Jr.)	2018

### *Visiting Instructor at Peking University*

<b>New advancements in difference-in-differences</b> (MA & Ph.D.)	2022
<b>Machine learning for difference-in-differences</b> (MA & Ph.D.)	2022
<b>Machine learning in education policy</b> (MA & Ph.D.)	2021
<b>Education finance</b> (MA core)	2018
<b>Economics of higher education</b> (MA) & <b>Education and human resources</b> (MA & Ed.M.)	2017

### *Graduate Student Instructor at University of Michigan*

<b>Quantitative methods for program evaluation</b> (MPP core, with Brian Jacob)	2017
<b>Categorical and limited dependent variable modeling</b> (Ph.D. core, with Stephen DesJardins)	2016

### *Teaching Assistant at Peking University*

<b>Economics of education</b> (Ph.D. & Ed.D & MA & Ed.M. core)	2013/2011
<b>Quantitative methods for education research</b> (MA core)	2012/2011
<b>Applied research in educational leadership &amp; administration</b> (Ed.D. & Ed.M.)	2012/2011
<b>Causal inference in economics of education</b> (workshop instructor)	2012
<b>Soccer, Floorball</b>	various years

### *China Rural K-12 School Volunteer Teacher*

Chinese, English, Math (Grades 1-6, fall/summer, Gansu Province)	2010/2009
Chinese (Grades 4-6, summer, Guizhou Province)	2007

## University and Social Services

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Conference Program Committee (2022), AEFPP Annual Conference  
 Economics of Education Summer School Committee (2022), Peking University  
 Conference Program Committee (2021), AEFPP Annual Conference  
 National Best Student Paper in Economics of Education Award Committee (2021), Peking University  
 Session Discussant (2020), APPAM Fall Meeting  
 Founding Committee Member (2020-), Chinese Education Finance and Policy Association  
 Volunteer U-6 Head Coach (2019-20), Orange Soccer Association  
 Session Chair (2018), ASHE Annual Meeting  
 Collegiate Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Readers (2017-18), University of Michigan  
 Graduate Affairs Committee (2016-17), School of Education, University of Michigan  
 Ph.D. Admissions Committee (2016-17), CSHPE, University of Michigan  
 Director of Advisory Board (2010-2013), Poetry Association and Soccer Association, Peking University  
 Undergraduate Admissions Counselor (2010), Office of Admissions, Peking University

## K-12 and Higher Education Policy Projects

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### *United States*

2020- State Longitudinal Data System and Data-Driven Policymaking in Rhode Island  
 2019- Improving Centralized School Choice in New Haven using Data Science and Behavioral Science  
 2016-19 Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program and Teacher Mobility Project  
 2015-19 Florida Virtual School Online Learning and Student Achievement  
 2015-19 Effectiveness of Michigan Charter Schools  
 2016-17 Winning Futures High School Mentoring Program  
 2015 Evidence Based Literacy Instruction  
 2015-17 School Performance Assessment of Detroit Public Schools  
 2014-16 Evaluation of Michigan Merit Curriculum and Michigan Promise Scholarship

### *China*

2012-13 Hunan Technical Vocational Education Demonstration Project, Asian Development Bank  
 2012-13 SEED Continuing Education Program, Apple Inc.  
 2012 *Build Back Better* Early Childhood Development Project, China MoE & UNICEF  
 2011 Sino-British Basic Education Program, China MoE & UK DFID  
 2011 China Yunnan Technical and Vocational Education and Training Project, World Bank  
 2011 Evaluation of the Free Teacher Education Project, China Ministry of Education

## References

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Stephen DesJardins	<a href="mailto:sdesj@umich.edu">sdesj@umich.edu</a>	University of Michigan
Susan Dynarski	<a href="mailto:susan_dynarski@gse.harvard.edu">susan_dynarski@gse.harvard.edu</a>	Harvard University
Brian Jacob	<a href="mailto:bajacob@umich.edu">bajacob@umich.edu</a>	University of Michigan
Susanna Loeb	<a href="mailto:sloeb@stanford.edu">sloeb@stanford.edu</a>	Stanford University
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