

# Zhejian Wang

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Lerner College of Business and Economics, University of Delaware

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## RESEARCH FIELDS AND INTERESTS

**Fields:** Applied Microeconomics; Economics of Education; Development Economics; Labor Economics; Family Economics.

**Additional areas:** Digital Economy; Technology Policy; Platform Economics and Regulation.

**Research interests:** Education policy, schooling choice, human capital formation, and educational equity; digital regulation and adolescent behavior; household decision-making, gender, and social norms; generative AI and digital technology.

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## EDUCATION

**University of Delaware, Lerner College of Business and Economics** Newark, DE, USA  
*Ph.D. in Economics* 2026

- Dissertation: *Essays in Digital Economics*.

**University of Southern California** Los Angeles, CA, USA  
*M.A. in Economics* 2016

**Southwestern University of Finance and Economics** China  
*Bachelor of Management* 2014

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## PUBLICATIONS

### Restricting Video Games in China: Effects on Time Use, Educational Achievement, and Health

Sole author. *Journal of Development Economics*, 182, 103812, 2026.

Studies the effects of China's 2021 regulation of online gaming for minors on time use, academic performance, and health outcomes. The paper finds that the policy significantly reduced gaming participation and overall internet use, but did not lead to observable short-run improvements in academic achievement or increases in study time.

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## WORKING PAPERS — EDUCATION, HUMAN CAPITAL, AND FAMILY

### When Success Becomes Salient: Local Role Models and Schooling Decisions

With Wei Huang and Ruoming Zhang. Working paper. [Draft]

Using hand-collected data on provincial college-entrance-exam (gaokao) top scorers in China and county-level cohort data from the 2010 Population Census, studies whether salient local academic success affects the educational choices and human capital formation of younger students nearby.

### Higher-Education Expansion and Upper-Secondary Choice

With Yiqun Tong and Ruoming Zhang. Revise and resubmit at *Economic Modelling*. [Draft]

Studies the effects of higher-education expansion on upper-secondary schooling choices and human capital investment.

### Premarital Property Rights and Marriage Timing: Evidence from Urban China

With Ruoming Zhang. Revise and resubmit at *Review of Economics of the Household*. [Draft]

Studies how changes in premarital property rights affect marriage timing and family-formation behavior in urban China.

### From Seats to Status: China's 1999 Higher-Education Expansion and Urban–Rural Occupational Mobility

With Yiqun Tong and Ruoming Zhang. Working paper. [Draft]

Studies the long-run effects of higher-education expansion on urban–rural occupational mobility and status attainment.

## **WORKING PAPERS — DIGITAL ECONOMICS AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

### **Restricting Minors' Online Gaming: Compliance, Evasion, and Market Responses in China**

Sole author. Working paper. [Draft]

Using high-frequency app-level revenue and download data for iOS apps in China, studies demand reallocation and market responses in the mobile app market following the regulation of minors' gaming.

### **Governing Knowledge Reuse through Research Infrastructure: Evidence from the arXiv License Interface**

With Ruoming Zhang. Working paper. [Draft]

Studies how the interface design of research infrastructure reshapes the allocation of rights over the reuse of scientific knowledge, and discusses policy implications in the era of generative AI.

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

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### **Generative AI as a Product Feature: Causal Evidence from iOS Apps**

Sole author.

Studies how the entry of generative AI as a product feature in the mobile app market affects firm adoption, product differentiation, and market performance.

### **Generative AI and Scientific Production**

Sole author.

Studies the effects of generative AI on researchers' search, writing, knowledge reuse, and the scientific production function.

### **From Wanting Sons to Benchmarking Daughters: Female Names and the Changing Symbolic Expression of Son Preference in China**

With Ruoming Zhang.

Studies gender norms, son preference, and symbolic family behavior reflected in changes in female names.

### **Less Paperwork, More Marriages: Registration Frictions and Marriage Outcomes**

With Ruoming Zhang.

Studies the effects of marriage-registration frictions on marriage outcomes.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **University of Delaware**

Newark, DE, USA

*Instructor*

Fall 2022 – Spring 2023

- Introduction to Microeconomics (ECON 101), Fall 2022.
- Introduction to Macroeconomics (ECON 103), Spring 2023.

### **University of Delaware**

Newark, DE, USA

*Teaching Assistant*

Fall 2021 – Spring 2025

- Graduate: Microeconomic Theory I–II (ECON 811, 813). Undergraduate: Economic Data Analysis; Quantitative Microeconomic Theory; Urban Economics; Health Policy; Management Information Systems.

**Prepared to teach:** Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Applied Econometrics, Development Economics, Labor Economics, Economics of Education, and Digital Economics.

## **FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS**

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Full Graduate Fellowship, University of Delaware

2020–2025

Third-Year Summer Research Stipend, University of Delaware

Summer 2023

Research Assistant to Prof. David Stockman, University of Delaware

Spring 2024

## **INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE**

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### **Caitong Securities Co., Ltd. — Internet Sector Research**

Shanghai, China

*Assistant Analyst (2017–2018); Analyst (2019–2020)*

2017–2020

- Covered Chinese digital-platform companies as a sell-side analyst and tracked technology-regulation developments; this experience provides industry background for research on digital regulation, platform governance, and China's digital markets.

- CFA charterholder.

## **SKILLS AND LANGUAGES**

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**Software:** Stata, R, Python,  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , SQL. **Languages:** Mandarin (native); English (fluent).

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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University of Delaware, Department of Economics Seminar, 2025; ESGA Conference, University of Delaware, 2025.

## **REFERENCES**

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**Prof. Jeremy Tobacman**

University of Delaware

[tobacman@udel.edu](mailto:tobacman@udel.edu)

**Prof. George R. Parsons**

University of Delaware

[gparsons@udel.edu](mailto:gparsons@udel.edu)

**Prof. Emily L. Battaglia**

University of Delaware

[emilylb@udel.edu](mailto:emilylb@udel.edu)