

Weizheng Lai

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Department of Economics
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of Maryland, 2025 (expected)

M.A. Economics, University of Maryland, 2021

B.A. Economics & B.S. Mathematics (with distinction), Wuhan University, 2019

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Economy, China, Public Economics

RESEARCH

PUBLISHED OR ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

1. “[China’s Anti-Corruption Campaign and Civil Servant Fever](#)”, with Xun Li, accepted by *Journal of Law and Economics*
2. “[The Effect of Education on Voter Turnout in China’s Rural Elections](#)”, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, Vol.221, May 2024
3. “[Housing Market Regulations and Strategic Divorce Propensity in China](#)”, with James Alm and Xun Li, *Journal of Population Economics*, Vol.35, July 2022
4. “[Role of Professionalism in the Policy Response to COVID-19: Does a Public Health or Medical Background Help?](#)”, with Xun Li, Qianqian Wan, and Xi Chen, *China Economic Review*, Vol.71, February 2022

WORKING PAPERS

5. “[Adverse Experience and Occupational Outcomes: Evidence from Children of the Cultural Revolution](#)”, submitted
6. “[Property Rights, State Capacity, and Social Capacity: The Lasting Impacts of the Taiping Rebellion](#)”, with Colin Xu and Li Yang, reject & resubmit at *Journal of Economic Growth*
7. “[Anti-Corruption and Political Trust: Evidence from China](#)”, with Ming Fang and Congling Xia, submitted

WORK IN PROGRESS

8. “China’s State-Owned Enterprises Reform”
9. “The Impact of Exporting to China on Taiwanese Elections”

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES

PRESENTATION

2024: Society of Labor Economists, Chinese Economists Society North America Meeting
2022: University of Queensland
2021: Global Labor Organization & Renmin University Joint Conference
Pre-Ph.D.: Chinese Economists Society Meeting (2018, 2019, coauthor presented)

REFEREE SERVICE

Agribusiness: An International Journal • *British Medical Journal: Leader* • *China: An International Journal* • *Journal of Population Economics*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

RA for Dr. Colin Xu (World Bank), 2022

TEACHING

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Instructor, Intermediate Microeconomics
TA, Ph.D. Econometrics
TA, Ph.D. Summer Probability & Statistics Course

AWARDS

Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship, University of Maryland, 2024
2nd Place for Economics Poster Competition, University of Maryland, 2023
2nd Place for Best 3rd-Year Paper Prize, University of Maryland, 2022
Melville Ulmer Prize (Best 2nd-Year Paper Prize), University of Maryland, 2022
Graduation with Distinction, Wuhan University, 2019
Scholarship for Outstanding Students, Wuhan University, 2015–2019

SKILLS

Software: Stata, Matlab, R
Language: English, Mandarin Chinese

REFERENCES

Prof. Allan Drazen (committee co-chair), University of Maryland, drazen@umd.edu
Prof. Ethan Kaplan (committee co-chair), University of Maryland, edkaplan@umd.edu
Prof. Peter Murrell, University of Maryland, pmurrell@umd.edu