Weilong Zhang

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Current Appointments

Associate Professor (with tenure), Faculty of Economics, University of Cambridge, 2023–present.
Fellow, Selwyn College, University of Cambridge, 2023–present.
Senior Member, Robinson College, University of Cambridge, 2023–present.
Associate Editor, International Economic Review, 2025–present.

Past Appointments

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Economics, University of Cambridge, 2018–2023.
Bye-fellow, Selwyn College, University of Cambridge, 2021–2023.

Education

Ph.D., Economics, University of Pennsylvania, 2018.
Dissertation: "Essay in Labor Economics". Advisors: Petra Todd, Christopher Flinn, Sarah Moshary.
M.Phil., Economics, University of Pennsylvania, 2014.
M.A., Economics, Hanqing Institute, Renmin University of China, 2013.
B.S./B.A., Mathematics/Finance, Renmin University of China, 2010.

Research Interests

Labor Economics, Psychology and Economics, Genetics and Economics, Household Finance.

Publications

1. *Early-life Sugar Restriction Causally Reduces Adult Cancer Incidence and Slows Biological Ageing*, with Chen Zhu. Accepted at ***Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences***.
2. *Starting Strong: Medium- and Longer-run Benefits of Mexico's Universal Preschool Mandate*, with Jere Behrman, Ricardo Gomez-Carrera, Susan Parker, and Petra Todd. Accepted at ***Journal of Labor Economics***.
3. *How Universal Preschool Shapes Boys' and Girls' Outcomes in Poor and Better-Off Households: Evidence from Mexico*, with Jere R. Behrman, Susan W. Parker, and Petra E. Todd. **AEA Papers and Proceedings** 116: 284–288, 2026.
4. *Labor Market Returns to Personality: A Job Search Approach to Understanding Gender Gaps*, with Christopher J. Flinn and Petra E. Todd. **Journal of Political Economy** 133(4): 1169-1234, 2025.
5. *Distributional Effects of Local Minimum Wages: A Spatial Job Search Approach*, with Petra E. Todd. **Journal of Labor Economics** 43(S1): S221–S267, 2025.
6. *Prospering through Prospera: CCT Impacts on Educational Attainment and Achievement in Mexico*, with Jere R. Behrman, Susan W. Parker, and Petra E. Todd. **Quantitative Economics** 16(1): 133–183, 2025.
7. *Non-College Occupations, Workplace Routinization, and the Gender Gap in College Enrollment*, with Amanda Chuan. **Journal of Human Resources**, 2025 (early view).
8. *The Gender Gap in Household Bargaining Power: A Revealed-Preference Approach*, with Ran Gu and Cameron Peng. **Review of Financial Studies** hhae039, 2024.
9. *A Dynamic Model of Personality, Schooling, and Occupational Choice*, with Petra E. Todd. **Quantitative Economics** 11(1): 231–275, 2020.
10. *Personality Traits, Intra-household Allocation and the Gender Wage Gap*, with Christopher J. Flinn and Petra E. Todd. **European Economic Review** 109: 191–220, 2018.
11. *Welfare Reform and Children's Early Cognitive Development*, with Hau Chyi and Orgul Demet Ozturk. **Contemporary Economic Policy** 32(4): 729–751, 2014.

Working Papers

- *The DNA of Enterprise: Genetic Endowments, Entrepreneurship and Intergenerational Mobility*, with Naijia Guo and Qianyu Yang.
- *Fintech Innovation and Financial Inclusion: Evidence from Payment-Integrated Money Market Funds*, with Yapei Zhang and Junli Zhao.
- *Genetic Endowments and Lifetime Earnings: Understanding the Mechanisms*, with Uta Bolt, Eric French, Varun Warrier, and Qianyu Yang.
- *(Human) Attention Is (Still) All You Need: Human Oversight Makes Ai-Assisted Social Science*, with Chen Zhu.

Professional Service

Associate Editor (2025-): International Economic Review.
Mentor in SOLE Mentoring Program (2024-26)
Referee: American Economic Review, Journal of Political Economy, JPE: Micro, Quantitative Economics, AEJ: Applied, AEJ: Policy, Economic Journal, Journal of Human Resources, International Economic Review, among others.
Conference Organizer: Families, Frictions, Finance Conference (Cambridge, 2025); Early Life Skills and Human Capital Mini Conference (Cambridge, 2022).
Programme/Scientific Committees: EEA-EALE, Society of Economics of the Household.

Conference and Seminar Presentations

2026: Duke, Wisconsin-Madison; UPenn; UIUC; Johns Hopkins; Edinburgh; Vienna; TAGC (Wisconsin); ESSGN (Bologna); Barcelona GSE Summer Forum
2025: SOLE; CUHK Shenzhen; Hong Kong Labor Symposium (HKU); Shanghai Jiao Tong University; Fudan University; China Agricultural University; Peking University; ESSGN (Bristol); TAGC (Wisconsin); HKLM Seminar (IFS)
2024: Zhejiang University
2023: AEA; SOLE; Barcelona GSE Summer Forum; EEA–ESEM.
2022: Cambridge–Nova SBE; SOLE; Edinburgh; Essex; EEA–ESEM.
2021: Royal Holloway; SOLE; SED; RES; WEAI; Barcelona GSE Summer Forum; IFS Education Seminar.
2020: AEA; SED (rescheduled); RES (rescheduled); EALE–SOLE–AASLE (virtual); Essex/RHUL SaM Webinar; IZA/SOLE TAM.
Earlier years available upon request.

Grants, Honors, and Awards

Principal Investigator, Keynes Fund Cambridge (£40,792), 2024–2026.
Principal Investigator, BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants (£9,310), 2020–2023.
Principal Investigator, Keynes Fund Cambridge (£16,158), 2020–2022.
CERF Fellowship, Cambridge, 2020–present.
Paul Taubman Memorial Prize, University of Pennsylvania, 2018.
TRIO Pilot Award, University of Pennsylvania, $20,000, 2015–2016.

PhD Advising

Main supervisor: Xuyi Yang; Qianyu Yang.
Second advisor: Tianyu Pang; Tina Zhang; Mingxi Zhang; Fergus McCormack.
Graduates: Shengjuan He

Teaching

University of Cambridge: Empirical Micro (PhD), Labour Economics (MPhil), Policy Evaluation, Contracts & Regulations, Education & Health, Signalling, Wage Structure, Unions.

Other Information

Computer Skills: Matlab; Fortran; R; Stata.
Languages: English (fluent), Chinese (native).