

YOUYANG ZHANG

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Economic History, Political Economy, Development Economics

EDUCATION

M.A. in Economics, Wuhan University

Expected Jun. 2028

- Relevant coursework (PhD level): Advanced Microeconomics I (A)–II, Advanced Macroeconomics I (B+)–II, Advanced Econometrics I (A)–II, Mathematical Methods in Economics (A)

B.A. in Economics, Wuhan University

Sep. 2021 – Jun. 2025

- GPA: 3.92/4.00
- Relevant coursework: Dynamic Optimization (100), Intermediate Microeconomics (93), Intermediate Macroeconomics (95), Intermediate Econometrics (96), Game Theory (98), Differential Equations (92), Differential Geometry (95)

Study Abroad — University of California, Los Angeles

Mar. 2024 – Jun. 2024

- Advanced Econometrics (A)

WORKING PAPERS & THESIS

“Strategies of Gongchan (Common Property): A Study Based on 120 Villages in Wangdu County During the Late Qing China” 2025

With Prof. Kaixiang Peng.

- Constructed a village-level dataset for 120 villages by quantifying historical archives, including gazetteers and stone inscriptions.
- Quantitatively examined the formation of communal property and its role in public goods provision and rural finance.
- Analyzed the transition of communal assets into modern education funding during the “Temple Property for Schools” movement.
- Conference: Presented at Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, the 2nd Symposium on Fiscal and Financial Transformation in Modern China (Nanchang University), and the International Symposium on China’s Long-Term Economic Development (Liaoning University).

“Chasing the Grade: Causes of Grade Preference in University Course Selection” 2025

With Peiyan Han. R & R at China Economics of Education Review (in Chinese).

- Developed a theoretical model attributing students’ “grade preference” to information asymmetry between students and instructors.
- Employed a Two-Way Fixed Effects model to verify the existence of grade preference using course selection data from a top-tier Chinese university.
- Confirmed that grade preference intensifies with higher student ability and greater course subjectivity.
- Conference: Selected for The 1st National Forum for Young Scholars in Economics of Education (Declined to present).

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Silver Inflow, Land Markets, and Long-term Economic Transformation”

2026

Master’s Thesis. Adviser: Prof. Kaixiang Peng.

- Investigated whether the 16th-17th century global silver inflow led to monetary deepening or merely inflation in China.
- Constructed a large-scale database of land prices by applying AI-driven OCR and structured text analysis to thousands of historical land deeds and contracts.

SUMMER SCHOOLS & PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

The 11th Quantitative History Summer School

Jul. 2025

Oxford University Summer School in Academic Writing

Aug. 2022

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Prof. Melanie Meng XUE (LSE)

Dec. 2022 – Sep. 2023

- Project: Crowd-sourced Chinese genealogies as data for demographic and economic history
- Collected and processed genealogical data for research on historical demography and economic behavior

Member, Translation Association of Hubei

Apr. 2022 – Present

Teaching Assistant — Economic History (2025 Fall) , Econometrics (2026 Spring)

HONORS & AWARDS

2nd Prize, The 14th Chinese Mathematics Competition

Jan. 2023

3rd Prize, The 15th Chinese Mathematics Competition

Dec. 2023

3rd Prize, 22nd China Post-Graduate Mathematical Contest in Modeling

Dec. 2025

2nd Prize, National English Competition for College Students

Jun. 2022

B class, Freshman Scholarship (Top 10%)

Dec. 2021

C class, Scholarship for Outstanding Students (Top 15%)

Nov. 2022

B class, Scholarship for Outstanding Students (Top 10%)

Nov. 2023

Outstanding Student

Nov. 2022

Merit Student

Nov. 2023

Outstanding Graduate

Jun. 2025

SKILLS & TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES

Programming: Python, R, Stata, QGIS, MATLAB, L^AT_EX

Languages: Mandarin (native), English (fluent - TOEFL 103/IELTS 7.5), German (beginner)