

ELAINE M. LIU

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CURRENT POSITIONS

Professor and Bernard B. and Eugenia A. Ramsey Chair of Private Enterprise, Department of Economics, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University, 2025-present

Faculty Director, Georgia Policy Labs Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University, 2025-present

Associate Editor, *Journal of Development Economics*, 2025-present

Associate Editor, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 2021-2025

Associate Editor, *Journal of Health Economics*, 2020-2025

Research Associate, Children and Health Economics Programs, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), 2015-present

Member, Human Capital and Economic Opportunity (HCEO) Global Working Group, 2014-present

Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), 2013-present

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Princeton University, 2008
Dissertation Titled: “Essays on Development Economics in China”

M.A., Economics, Princeton University, 2005

B.A. *magna cum laude*, Economics, Wellesley College, 2003
Minor in Mathematics. Phi Beta Kappa

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Professor, Department of Economics, University of Houston, 2022-2025

Visiting Professor, Department of Economics, University of Pompeu Fabra, 2023-2024

Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Houston, 2014-2022

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Houston, 2008-2014

Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Children and Health Economics Programs, 2014-2015

Visiting Scholar, Public Economic Policy Research Center, National Taiwan University, Summer 2019, Summer 2021

Visiting Scholar, University of International Business & Economics, Summer 2016

Visiting Scholar, Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy, Beijing, China, Summer 2006, Winter 2006, Summer 2007, Summer 2012

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Health Economics, Development Economics, Behavioral Economics, Labor Economics

PUBLICATIONS

“Relative Obesity and the Formation of Non-cognitive Abilities during Adolescence” (with C. Andrew Zuppann) (2022) Volume 57(6), 2086-2112, *Journal of Human Resources*

“Malleability in Alcohol Consumption: Evidence from Migrants” (with Marit Hinnosaar) (2022), Volume 85, 102648, *Journal of Health Economics*

-featured on *VoxEU*

“Property Rights, Land Misallocation and Agricultural Efficiency in China” (with A.V. Chari, Shing-Yi Wang, and Yongxiang Wang) (2021), Volume 88, 1831-1862, *Review of Economic Studies*

-featured on *VoxDev* and *VoxChina*.

“Maternal Education, Parental Investment and Non-Cognitive Characteristics in Rural China” (with Jessica Leight) (2020), Volume 69.1, 213-251 at *Economic Development and Cultural Change*

“Measuring the Impact of Interactions between Children of a Matrilineal and a Patriarchal Culture on Gender Differences in Risk Aversion” (with Sharon Xuejing Zuo) (2019), 116(14) 6713-6719, *Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences*

-featured on *National Public Radio*, *Newsweek*, *London Times*, *Quartz*, and *BBC Radio*

“Who is Coming to the Field Experiment? Participation Bias amongst Chinese Rural Migrants” (with Paul Frijters and Sherry Tao Kong) (2015), Volume 114, 62-74. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*

“Does in Utero Exposure to Illness Matter? The 1918 Influenza Epidemic in Taiwan as a Natural Experiment” (with Ming-Jen Lin) (2014), Volume 37, 152-163, *Journal of Health Economics*

“Confucianism and Social Preferences: Evidence from Lab Experiments” (with Juanjuan Meng and Joseph Tao-yi Wang), (2014), Volume 104, 106 – 122, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*

“Time to Change What to Sow: Risk Preferences and Technology Adoption Decisions of Cotton Farmers in China”, (2013), Volume 95(4), 1386-1403, *Review of Economics and Statistics*

“Risk Preference and Pesticide Use by Cotton Farmers in China” (with JiKun Huang)
(2013), Volume 103, 202-215, *Journal of Development Economics*

“Does Sorry Work? The Impact of Apology Laws on Medical Malpractice” (with Benjamin Ho)
(2011) Volume 43(2), 141-167, *Journal of Risk and Uncertainty*

-featured on *Wall Street Journal*, *Harvard Business Review*, and *Freakonomics Radio*

“What’s an Apology Worth? Estimating the Effects of Apology in Medical Malpractice ” (with Benjamin Ho) (2011) Vol. 8(S1), 179-199, *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*

WORKING PAPERS

Externalities of Marijuana Legalization: Marijuana Use in Non-Legalizing States (With Marit Hinnosaar and Eva Loaeza Albino)

“The Impact of a Natural Disaster on the Incidence of Fetal Losses and Pregnancy Outcomes” (with Tzu-yin Hazel Tseng and Jin-Tan Liu)

“Fetal Origins of Mental Health: Evidence from Natural Disasters in Taiwan” (With Jin-Tan Liu and Tzu-Yin Hazel Tseng), revise and resubmit, *Journal of Development Economics*

“Beggar-Thy-Women: Domestic Responses to Foreign Bride Competition, the case of Taiwan” (with Lena Edlund and Jin-Tan Liu)

“A Meta-Analysis of the Estimates of Returns to Schooling in China” (with Shu Zhang)

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

Acclimating to Air Pollution? (with Yuwei Zhang, Wei Huang and Junjie Hong)

The Development of Ethnic Ingroup Bias: Evidence from China (with Sharon Xuejing Zuo and Yanlei He)

Land Property Rights Protection and the Agricultural Machinery Subsidy Policy in China (with Zihan Hu and Peng Wang)

The Effect of Foreign Language Exposure on Economic Decision Making (with Josie I Chen)

Long Term Impact of Adolescence Alcohol Consumption (with Judit Vall Castello and Caroline Coly)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

PhD Application Webinar Speaker, The Graduate Applications International Network, 2024

Reviewer, NEUDC conference (Northeastern Universities Development Consortium), 2024

Reviewer, Barcelona School of Economics Summer Forum Children's Health and Well-being Session, 2024

Job Candidate Mentor, Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics (AMIE), 2021-2022, 2024

Co-organizer (with colleague Willa Friedman, Andrea Szabo, Gergely Ujhelyi and Fan Wang), Midwest Development Economics Conference (MWIEDC), 2023

Organizer, CEANA Conference, 2021-2023

Organizer, CEANA Job Market Conference, 2022

Mentor, CSWEP Ph.D. Mentoring Workshop, 2022

Mentor, Adopt a paper, 2021, 2022

Vice President, Chinese Economic Association in North America (CEANA), 2021-2023

Program Committee, Economic Demography Workshop, 2019, 2020, 2021

Reviewer, Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics (AMIE), 2021

Reviewer, Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economics, 2019

Reviewer, Midwest Development Economic Conference, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021

Co-organizer (with colleague Aimee Chin) University of Houston Conference on Gender, Health and Economic Development, 2010

Co-organizer (with colleague Aimee Chin), Stata Empirical Microeconomics Conference, 2013

Co-organizer (with Shing-Yi Wang and Yongxiang Wang), Conference on Rural Issues and Development Economics, 2014

Referee, *American Economic Review*, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *American Journal of Health Economics*, *China Economic Review*, *Demography*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Economics and Human Biology*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Economic Journal*, *European Economic Review*, *Food Policy*, *Health Economics*, *Hong Kong Research Grants Council*, *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, *Journal of Health Economics*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of Political Economy-Microeconomics*, *Journal of Population Economics*, *Labour Economics*, *Management Science*, *National Science Foundation*, *Pacific Economic Review*, *PLOS One*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *Review of Economic of the Household*, *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, *Southern Economic Journal*, *Swiss National Science Foundation*

INVITED SEMINARS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025

Georgia State University, Advanced in Field Experiment Conference (scheduled), SEA (scheduled)

2024

Norwegian School of Economics, University of Autonomia de Barcelona (Department of Applied Economics), University of Zurich, University of Navarra, University of Exeter, Barcelona Summer Forum-Children's Health and Well-being Session, University of Oklahoma, SEA, National Taiwan University (Brown Bag)

2023

AEA, Georgia Tech, Princeton University-IR Section centenary symposium, University of Autonomia de Madrid, University of Gothenburg, University of Autonomia de Barcelona, Department of Economic Analysis, University of Copenhagen, University of Pompeu Fabra-Brown Bag

2022

Vanderbilt University, University of Illinois-Chicago, AEA, SEA, University of Southern California-CESR

2021

University of Washington, School of Public Health/School of Pharmacy, University of Western Australia, Hanyang University, COSME Gender Economics Workshop (discussant), Electronic Health Economics Colloquium, National Taiwan University-Applied Economics Workshop

2020

NBER-Health Spring Meeting (cancelled), University of Western Australia (cancelled)

2019

Auburn University, Singapore Management University, Hong Kong Baptist University

2018

Texas A&M, University of International Business and Economics, Rice University Baker Institute China Studies (Panelist), University of Houston Bauer School of Business, National Taiwan University

2017

NBER-Children/Education Spring Meeting

2016

National Taiwan University, SOLE, University of Montreal Applied Economics Conference, PAA, HKUST

2015

University of South Florida, IFPRI, SOLE, NBER-Health Economics Meeting, Barcelona GSE Summer Forum Migration Workshop

2014

American Economic Association Meeting, University of Wisconsin-Madison (Agricultural & Applied Economics), University of Michigan-Conference on the Long Run Impacts of Early Life Events, University of Texas (School of Public Health), Sam Houston State University

2013

Texas A&M, University of Georgia (Agricultural Economics), Chapman University, Claremont

McKenna College, Emory University, Louisiana State University, Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy, Simon Fraser University, American Economic Association Meeting (discussant), NBER-Conference on Economics, Religion and Culture, Economic of Demography Workshop, Population Association of America, Society of Labor Economic Meeting (SOLE), MWIEDC, China Econometric Society Meeting, China Economic Summer Institute, NEUDC, Symposium on Economic Experiments in Developing Countries (SEEDC), International Symposium on Human Capital and the Labor Market—Central University of Finance and Economics, National Taiwan University

2012

University of California—Irvine, University of Southern California, Vanderbilt University, Vanderbilt University (Law School), Dalhousie University, University of Toronto (CEPA Brown Bag), University of Houston-Law Center, NBER-SI Health Economics Workshop, University of Goettingen-Workshop on Human Trafficking, International Crime and National Security, Pacific Conference for Development Economics, MWIEDC, National Taiwan University-2012 International Conference on New Perspectives in East Asian Studies, Academia Sinica-Conference on Socioeconomic Causes and Consequences of Public Health, European Association of Labour Economists (invited session), Southern Economic Association, NEUDC, Texas STATA Empirical Micro Conference, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies/Tokyo International Workshop on Development-Conference on Risks, Social Networks, and Development

2011

University of Maryland (School of Public Policy) , International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) (Development Strategy and Governance Division), University of Illinois (College of Law), Baylor University, University of Arkansas- Fayetteville, Academia Sinica, National Taiwan University, Tsinghua University- School of Economics and Management , Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, Peking University (Guanghua School of Management), University of Western Ontario-Workshop on Labor Markets in China and North America, Population Association of America, MWIEDC, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, NBER-Chinese Economy Working Group (discussant), Southern Economic Conference

2010

Brigham Young University, Texas A&M, University of Hong Kong, National Taiwan University, American Economic Association, Economics and Management of Risk in Agricultural and Natural Resources Conference, Midwest International Economic Development Conference (MWEIDC) (University of Minnesota), American Law and Economic Association Meeting, American Society of Health Economists Conference, IZA/CIER Annual Labor Workshop, North America Economic Science Association

2009

Baylor College of Medicine, Biotechnology in Developing Countries Conference (UC Berkeley), Texas A&M University (Agricultural Economics), Southern Economic Conference

2008

North America Economic Science Association (ESA), Cornell University, China Summer Institute, New Techniques in Development Economics (Australian National University), University of Houston, National University of Singapore, National Taiwan University, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

2007

Princeton University, Rutgers University (Agricultural Economics), Northeast Universities Development Consortium Conference (NEUDC)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, University of Houston 2008-Present

Development Economics (Undergraduate Level), Chinese Economy (Undergraduate Level), Economics of Health Care (Undergraduate Level), Introduction to Microeconomics (Undergraduate Level), Health Economics (Masters Level), Topics in Health Economics (Ph.D. Level)

Preceptor, Princeton University 2006-2007

Introductory Microeconomics, Introductory Macroeconomics

SERVICE

Member, UH Department of Economics Recruiting Committee, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2012-2013, 2014-2015, 2024-2025

Chair, UH Department of Economics Ph.D. Admission Committee 2019-2021, 2024-2025

Member, UH Department of Economics Ph.D. Admission Committee 2016-2019, 2022

Member, University of Houston Department of Economics Reading Committee, various promotion and tenure cases including as committee chair

Co-organizer (with colleague Kei-Mu Yi), Second UH Economics Ph.D. Alumni Conference, 2023

Interim Graduate Director, UH Department of Economics, 2022-2023

Member, Graduate Affairs Committee, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS), 2021-2023

Co-organizer (with colleague Kei-Mu Yi), First UH Economics Ph.D. Alumni Conference, 2021

Associate Graduate Director, Department of Economics, 2019-2021

Member, University of Houston Borders, Trade, and Immigration Institute (BTI) Research Committee, 2018-2021

Co-Organizer, Graduate Student Workshop, 2015-2019

Member, University of Houston Department of Economics Executive Committee, 2014-2018

Member, University of Houston Liberal Studies Evaluation Committee, 2015-2016

Member, Selection Committee for the 2015 Women and Gender Resource Center Distinguished Faculty Scholar and Distinguished Service to Women Awards, 2015

Organizer, Faculty Brown Bag 2009-2015

Affiliate, Abramson Center for the Future of Health (Joint effort between University of Houston College of Technology and the Methodist Hospital Research Institute), 2008

Member, University of Houston Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies Program Faculty Summer Fellowship Selection Committee, 2013

Reviewing Ph.D. program applications, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2013-2014

Reviewing Master's program applications, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014

GRANTS, HONORS, CONTRACTS AND AWARDS

Early Reach Evaluation. Inter-local agreement between Harris County and UH to evaluate Early Reach Child Care Program, \$2.3 million, Co-Investigator, with Willa Friedman, Elizabeth Gregory, Fan Wang and Coleen Carlson, 2024–2026.

University of Houston Research Innovation Fund, \$15,000, 2023

Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation Scholar Grants, \$20,000, 2023

Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation Scholar Grants, \$18,000, 2020

University of Houston, CLASS Research Progress Grant \$2,000 2015

Albert Rees Prize for Outstanding Princeton Ph.D. Dissertation in Labor Economics, 2013

Economic and Social Research Council/DFID (Principal Investigator, with Shing-Yi Wang and Yongxiang Wang) \$433,800 2012-2014

Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation Junior Scholar Grants, \$13,009, 2014

Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation Junior Scholar Grants, \$13,354, 2013

Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation Junior Scholar Grants, \$25,000, 2012

Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation Junior Scholar Grants, \$28,500, 2011

Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation Junior Scholar Grants, \$25,000, 2010

University of Houston Small Grant, \$6,000 2010

University of Houston New Faculty Grant, 2009

Princeton University John Parker Compton Memorial Fellowship in International Relations, 2007-2008

Princeton University Industrial Relations Section Research Grant, 2006

Princeton University Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship, 2004-2007

Princeton University Graduate School Fellowship, 2004-2007

Princeton University Harold W. Dodds Honorific Fellowship, 2003-2004

Wellesley College, Economics Department Honors Program, 2003

Ph.D. DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

If a student has been awarded a Ph.D. degree, the year that degree was awarded (* asterisk denotes role as chair or co-chair of dissertation committee.)

- Yuwei Zhang (current)
- Alexis Atchade (current)
- Yujie Zhang* (2025, University of Pennsylvania Post-doc)
- Shuan-Wen Lin* (2024, National Taiwan University, Public Economics Policy Research Center)
- Eva Loaeza-Albino (2024, California Workers' Compensation Institute)
- Yeabin Moon* (2022, Brandeis International Business School)
- Jean Kabore (2021, Amazon)
- Claire Chi-Hung Kang (2020, UH Institute of Research on Women, Gender & Sexuality Post-doc)
- Elizabeth Luh (2020, University of Michigan Post-doc)
- Saumya Rana (2019, Welch Consulting)
- Arpita Chakravorty* (2018, Zillow)
- Sharon Xuejing Zuo* (2018, Fudan University)
- Hazel Tzu-yin Tseng* (2016, Amazon)
- Chon-Kit Ao (2016, National Cheng-Gong University)
- David Bostashvili (2015, Amazon)
- Randy Crouch* (2015, Litigation Analytics)
- Ashmita Gupta (2015, Asian Development Research Institute)
- Abhilasha Singh (2014, Moody's Analytics)
- Shu Zhang* (2013, NRG Energy)
- Satadru Mukherjee (2012, University of Bristol)
- Santosh Kumar (2010, Sam Houston State University)