

Qilu (Lisa) Pan

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EDUCATION

Purdue University, Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. School of Business	West Lafayette, IN
◦ Ph.D. in Economics	2020 - present
Committee: Victoria Prowse (Chair), Kevin Mumford, Tim Bond, Ben Zou	
◦ M.S. in Economics	2022
Purdue University, Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. School of Business	West Lafayette, IN
◦ B.S. in Economics	2018-2020
Minors in Mathematics and Statistics	
China Agriculture University	Beijing, China
◦ B.A. in Economics	2016 - 2020

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor Economics, Public Economics, Economics of Education, and Applied Econometrics

WORKING PAPERS

- [1] Labor Supply under Nonlinear Tax Programs: Evidence from the Interaction of EITC and Wage Shocks (*Job Market Paper*)

Abstract: Low-income households are especially vulnerable to wage shocks. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)—the largest earnings subsidy in the United States—can either cushion these shocks or make them more severe, depending on a worker’s position on the EITC schedule. I develop a theoretical framework showing that the EITC has opposite effects across its schedule: it destabilizes employment responses in the phase-in region, where benefits rise with earnings, but stabilizes them in the phase-out, where benefits decline. I formalize this using an envelope semi-elasticity—the percentage-point change in employment associated with a 1% change in wages under different policy twists. To capture broader local equilibrium impacts, I introduce a Commuting Zone Average Treatment Effect (CZATE) that relaxes the identifying assumptions typically used in evaluations of the EITC. Empirically, combining local booms, China trade shocks, and minimum-wage hikes, I find that a \$100 increase in EITC generosity rotates the wage–employment slope by roughly 0.05–0.20 percentage points per 1% wage change, with larger stabilizing effects in downturn-type, trade-exposed labor markets. Together, the results imply that tax–transfer design can be tuned not just for equity and efficiency, but also to enhance macroeconomic resilience.

- [2] The Impact of Minimum Wage on Intra-Household Decision-Making: Evidence from Japan (*Under Review*)

Abstract: This paper examines how increases in wives’ market value, measured through wages, shape intra-household tradeoffs in Japan. Using a Difference-in-Differences strategy, I exploit minimum wage hikes to study their effects on wives’ relative income and time allocation. Evidence from the Japanese Household Panel Survey shows that higher minimum wages reduce the gender wage gap by encouraging wives—particularly those with young children—to enter the labor force and extend their working hours. Wives without young children respond by increasing employment while reducing time devoted to home production, whereas those with young

children primarily adjust by sacrificing leisure. By contrast, husbands exhibit limited responses to wage changes. These findings highlight that narrowing the gender wage gap, while promoting women's labor market participation, can also intensify their household burden. The results underscore the need for policies that address not only income disparities but also inequalities in unpaid work and time use within households.

- [3] The Impact of Social Security Survivor Benefits on Health-Related Outcomes of Widows (*With Hao Li*)

Abstract: Social Security Survivors Benefits (SSSB) are available beginning at age 60, with over five million surviving spouses claiming in the United States. This paper estimates the causal impact of SSSB on widowed women's health outcomes. Exploiting the eligibility threshold at age 60 and Health and Retirement Study data, we implement a fuzzy regression discontinuity design. Eligibility reduces the probability of reporting good health by 33 percentage points and increases doctor-diagnosed diabetes by 39 percentage points. These effects are concentrated among widows who retired before age 60, consistent with stronger financial dependence. We find no evidence that higher medical utilization explains the rise in diabetes diagnoses. Instead, consumption patterns—particularly greater spending on low-nutrient, calorie-dense foods—suggest a dietary mechanism. Complementary analysis using historical mortality data shows improved survival to age 70 among cohorts exposed to expanded benefits, underscoring the role of income support in shaping long-term health trajectories.

- [4] Import Competition and the Redistribution of Employment Across Skill Groups in U.S. Local Labor Markets (*With Victoria Prowse*)

Abstract: Over the past several decades, import competition has reshaped employment in advanced economies. Initial waves of manufacturing imports displaced large numbers of less-educated workers. More recently, the rise of high-skill-intensive imports has raised concerns about the vulnerability of educated labor. The labor market consequences of globalization thus depend not only on the overall scale of imports but also on the skill composition of traded goods and the ability of local labor markets to transmit and amplify these shocks. This paper revisits the "China shock" through a new lens by distinguishing between local exposure to low-skill-intensive and high-skill-intensive imports. Even when direct employment losses in manufacturing are comparable, broader adjustments diverge: some local economies absorb displaced workers into non-manufacturing industries, while others experience persistently weaker re-employment prospects. Patterns of adjustment also vary across demographic groups and skill levels, underscoring the role of both worker characteristics and local task requirements in shaping outcomes. By highlighting these composition effects within import shocks, the analysis reconciles mixed evidence on regional recovery and underscores the importance of sector-specific retraining and placement policies.

- [5] The Changing Pathways of High School Graduates: Why College Is Losing Ground? (*With Kevin Mumford*)

Abstract: Between 2009 and 2022, the share of U.S. high school graduates enrolling in college immediately fell from 66% to 57%. Using a state-year panel from IPEDS and NCES CCD, we document this decline and estimate an interactive fixed-effects model that absorbs unobserved common shocks while controlling for observable, time-varying factors. We find that demographic age structure, in-state and out-of-state tuition, expected returns to college, K-12 quality measures, and political preferences (Democratic presidential vote share) all significantly predict immediate college-going. We further show that the expansion of the Common Application reshaped sorting across institution types: applications and enrollments reallocate toward colleges better matched to students' academic profiles. A consistent explanation is recruiter behavior—employers update beliefs about the distribution of talent across institutions and increasingly avoid lower-quality colleges, reducing the labor-market return to attending those schools. Together, the results highlight how prices and perceived payoffs, school quality, political climate, and application tech-

nology jointly drive the recent decline in immediate college enrollment and reallocate students across the postsecondary landscape.

WORKING IN PROGRESS

- [1] Credit and Commitment: How Women's Access to Credit Cards Reshaped Family Decisions
(With Anthony Yim)
- [2] Educational Attainment and Mental Health Spillovers from Asian Immigrant Communities (With Kevin Mumford)

CONFERENCE TALKS

SEA 95th Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL	(Upcoming) Fall 2025
118th Annual Conference on Taxation, Boston, MA	(Upcoming) Fall 2025
International Conference on Empirical Economics, PSU-Altoona, PA	Summer 2025
SEA 93rd Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA	Fall 2023
Chinese Economists Society Annual Conference, China	Summer 2023

HONORS AND AWARDS

Krannert Doctoral Student Research Fund	Fall 2024
Krannert Certificate for Distinguished Teaching	Summer 2023
Jinlongyu College Scholar (Top 1%)	2017

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

- Principles of Economics ECON210 (undergraduate) Summer 2025
class size: 36; teaching evaluation: 4.23/5
- Microeconomics ECON251 (undergraduate) Summer 2023
class size: 74; teaching evaluation: 4.62/5

Review Session Instructor

- Labor Economics (undergraduate) Spring 2024

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Panelist on Job Market Mock Interviews	Fall 2024
Labor Lunch Organizer for Department	Fall & Spring 2022
Business Doctoral Student Association Treasurer	Fall & Spring 2022

SKILLS

Programming: Stata, Python, R, Matlab, Mathematica, \LaTeX