

WENJIA CAO

Curriculum Vitae (December 2025)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Singapore Management University
School of Economics
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EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of Economics, *Singapore Management University* July 2025 -

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Resilient Workforces (ResWORK) Fellow, *Singapore Management University* October 2025 -

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, *Michigan State University* 2025
M.A., Economics, *Duke University* 2019
B.Mgt., Financial Management, *Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST)* 2017

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Technology

PUBLICATIONS

“The Effect of Vaccine Mandates on Disease Spread: Evidence from College COVID-19 Mandates” (with Riley Acton, Emily Cook, Scott Imberman, and Michael Lovenheim). Forthcoming, *Journal of Human Resources*.

WORKING PAPERS

“Machine Versus Muscle, Bot Versus Brain: Effects of Artificial Intelligence on Heterogeneous Skill Groups” (Job Market Paper).

“College Major Choices under the Rapid Growth of General-Purpose Technology: A Study on AI.”

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Understanding the Role of Transparency in the Job Matching Process for Travel Nurses” (with Hye Jin Rho, and Christine Riordan).

“AI Adoption and Gender Wage Gaps.”

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED SEMINARS

2025: University of Georgia, Singapore Management University, California State University–Fullerton, MIT-SMU Resilient Workforces Symposium: Shaping the Future of Learning and Work in the age of AI, SMU Applied Micro Workshop.

2024: Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) Annual Meeting, MSU Future of Work Conference (poster session), UM-MSU-UWO Labor Day, Grand River Workshop (Michigan State University), Southern

Economic Association (SEA) Annual Meeting

2023: Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) Annual Meeting (poster session), U.S. Census Bureau ML/AI Affinity Group, Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference, Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Meeting

2022: Red Cedar Conference (Michigan State University), NBER Education Program Fall Meeting (invited to attend as one of the co-authors but not served as the presenter)

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Future of Work (FoW) Grant, <i>Michigan State University</i>	2025
COGS Conference Award, <i>Michigan State University</i>	2023
Kelly Fellowship, <i>Michigan State University</i>	2023
Thompson Endowment Award, <i>Michigan State University</i>	2022
Research Fellowship, <i>Michigan State University</i>	2022
Supplemental Support Fellowship, <i>Michigan State University</i>	2021
Department of Economics Grant, <i>Michigan State University</i>	2020

AWARDS & HONORS

Best Poster Award, <i>MSU Future of Work Conference</i>	2024
Red Cedar Award (the best third-year paper), <i>Michigan State University</i>	2022
Peter Schmidt Award (top performing first-year Ph.D. student), <i>Michigan State University</i>	2020
M.A. Merit Scholar Award, <i>Duke University</i>	2018
Outstanding Graduate Award (top 5% out of about 8,000 students), <i>HUST</i>	2017
Undergraduate Honors Thesis (top 3% out of about 8,000 students), <i>HUST</i>	2017
Merit Student (top 1% out of about 8,000 students), <i>HUST</i>	2014

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Singapore Management University

Instructor, ECON107 Introduction to Econometrics	Fall 2025
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Michigan State University

Teaching Assistant, EC491 Energy Economics and Policy	Spring 2024
Teaching Assistant, PPL802 Quantitative Methods in Public Policy II	Spring 2024
Head Teaching Assistant, EC201 Introduction to Microeconomics	Fall 2023
Teaching Assistant, EC485 Economics of Education	Summer 2022, Fall 2021
Teaching Assistant, EC480 Analysis of Labor Markets	Fall 2021
Teaching Assistant, EC499 Senior Seminar for Economics Majors	Spring 2021, Fall 2020

Teaching Assistant, EC380 Labor Relations and Labor Market Policy

Spring 2021

Teaching Assistant, EC301 Intermediate Microeconomics

Spring 2020, Fall 2019

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Prof. Amanda Chuan, <i>Michigan State University</i>	<i>Spring 2025</i>
Research Assistant, Prof. Hye Jin Rho, <i>Michigan State University</i>	<i>Fall 2024</i>
Research Assistant, Prof. Todd Elder, <i>Michigan State University</i>	<i>2022 - 2023</i>
Research Assistant, Prof. Scott Imberman, <i>Michigan State University</i>	<i>2021 - 2022</i>
Research Assistant, Prof. Marjorie McElroy, <i>Duke University</i>	<i>2018 - 2019</i>
Research Assistant, Prof. Bryan Bollinger, <i>Duke University</i>	<i>2018 - 2019</i>
Research Assistant, Prof. Pu Gong, <i>HUST</i>	<i>2014 - 2017</i>

ADVISING

Graduate Students:

Zhaozhen Li (current), SMU M.Phil in Economics (thesis committee member)

REFeree

American Journal of Health Economics, Review of Economics of the Household, Regional Science and Urban Economics

REFERENCES

Todd Elder (Chair)

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