

Tong Ye

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Education

University of Illinois Chicago (UIC)

PhD, Economics (GPA: 3.94/4.00)

Chicago, IL
2020–2026 (Expected)

Texas A&M University (TAMU)

MSc, Economics (GPA: 4.0/4.0, awarded the MS ECON scholarship)

College Station, TX
2017–2019

Certificate in Financial Econometrics

Nankai University (NKU)

BEcon, Insurance (GPA: 3.26/4.00)

Tianjin, China
2013–2017

Research Interests

Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Urban Economics, Health Economics, Public Policy

Publications and Work in Progress

Tong Ye, "The Impact of Remote Work on Women's Labor Market Share." (*Job Market Paper*)

Tong Ye, "The Effects of Automation on Population Mobility." (*Working Paper*)

Dennis Jansen and **Tong Ye**, "Japanese Government Debt: It's Not As Bad As You Might Think," *Private Enterprise Research Center (PERC) Data Points*, Issue 2, 2019. [↗](#)

Richard Funderburg, **Tong Ye**, and Chen Xie, "Trip Distribution Post-Pandemic and Disparate Impacts of Work from Home on Demands for Transit Services in Chicago: Evaluating Mobility Network Patterns from Cellphone Tracing Data." (*Work in Progress*)

Richard Funderburg, Kerry Fang, David Merriman, Josh Drucker, and **Tong Ye**, "Employment Center Evolution and Illinois's Economic Vibrancy." (*Work in Progress*)

Marcus Casey and **Tong Ye**, "Gender Gaps in Housing Tenure Choice across Cities." (*Work in Progress*)

Experience

Research.....

The Institute of Government and Public Affairs (IGPA)

Research Assistant for Prof. Richard Funderburg

Chicago, IL

Jan 2024–Present

The Impacts of Work from Home on Transit Service Demands

- Studied how the rise of remote work after the COVID-19 pandemic has changed public transit demand in the Chicago area, with a focus on differences between neighborhoods
- Processed and analyzed a large place-by-month dataset with billions of observations from cellphone tracking data to measure work-trip volumes using R and Python
- Applied a gravity model to study how reduced in-office work affects transit ridership, identifying communities most impacted by service changes
- Coauthored a paper providing evidence to guide government decisions on public transportation funding

Amazon

Economist Intern, Global Hiring Science

Arlington, VA

May 2025–Aug 2025

Effects of In-Person Interviews

- Studied the impact of transitioning from virtual to in-person interviews at Amazon, aimed at optimizing recruitment strategy
- Analyzed adoption patterns of in-person interviews and estimated their causal impacts on candidate experience, recruiting speed, and recruiting outcomes using causal inference methods (matching, Instrumental Variables, Double Machine Learning) combined with small-sample techniques (randomization inference) to evaluate cost-benefit trade-offs
- Proposed a company-wide, time- and cost-efficient in-person interview experiment through power analysis and data simulation,

enabling leadership to plan a feasible implementation

- Synthesized analytical findings into clear written deliverables and presentations for technical and business stakeholders, informing recruiting strategy decisions

The Department of Economics at UIC

Research Assistant for Prof. Marcus Casey

Chicago, IL

May 2023–May 2025

Gender Gap in Homeownership

- Studied factors driving changes in the gender gap in homeownership in the U.S., examining how social and economic dynamics influence women's housing outcomes
- Used ACS data to measure homeownership rate trends, highlighting the rise of female homeownership
- Built a marriage market mismatch index using Python and linked the rising mismatch rate to increased female homeownership, revealing how marriage market dynamics affect housing outcomes

The School of Public Health at UIC

Research Assistant for Prof. Marcus Dillender

Chicago, IL

Summer 2021 & Summer 2022

The Effects of Medicaid Formularies on Drug Utilization

- Studied the impact of Medicaid Preferred Drug Lists (PDLs) on prescription drug use in the 14 largest U.S. states
- Constructed a longitudinal Medicaid fee-for-service drug formulary dataset by merging states' PDLs, State Drug Utilization Data, and FDA data using Python and Stata, enabling subsequent research to inform policy decisions

UIC HFS (the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services) Transformation Research & Equity Project

- Provided research support for the HFS Transformation Project, which aimed to transform services and care models in Illinois to better meet community needs
- Investigated and documented three major public health datasets (NHANES, BRFSS, and NHIS) and developed economic benchmarks to assess health outcomes and identify barriers to care in socially vulnerable communities, informing research priorities and equity-focused interventions

The Private Enterprise Research Center at TAMU

Research Assistant for Prof. Dennis Jansen

College Station, TX

May 2019–Nov 2019

Japanese Government Debt: It's Not As Bad As You Might Think [↗](#)

- Investigated the reasons behind Japan's high government debt-to-GDP ratio (213%), the largest among advanced economies
- Decomposed government debt by holder type to clarify public liabilities, and constructed net debt-to-GDP ratio by adjusting gross liabilities for government financial assets and debt held by the Bank of Japan
- Coauthored a published article showing that nominal debt figures overstate Japan's fiscal burden, providing a more accurate perspective on government finances

Teaching

Instructor: Statistics for Economics (UIC, Undergraduate, Teaching Evaluation: 4.23/5)

Teaching Assistant: Microeconomic Theory (UIC, Doctoral), Microeconomics (UIC, Undergraduate), Principles of Macroeconomics (UIC, Undergraduate), Economic Forecasting (TAMU, Graduate)

Technical Skills

Programming: Stata, Python, R, SQL

Causal Inference: RCT, DID (conventional TWFE and new-developed DID with heterogeneous treatment effects), DDD, IV, RD, RK, Synthetic Control, Double Machine Learning (DML), Randomization Inference

Design of Experiments: Power analysis, data simulation, experimental design (A/B testing, geo experiments, RCTs)

Machine Learning: Regression (Linear/Polynomial, SVR), Classification (Logistic regression, KNN, SVC, Tree-based models), Clustering (K-mean), Dimensionality Reduction (PCA)

Other Tools: GitHub, Git, Google Cloud, \LaTeX

Presentations

Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL

Upcoming, Nov 2025

North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, New Orleans, LA

Nov 2024

UIC EARL, Chicago, IL

Mar 2023

References

Marcus Casey

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Ben Ost

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Richard Funderburg

Professor of Public Management and Policy

University of Illinois Springfield

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