Yiyang Chen

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EDUCATION

Yale University New Haven, CT
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Economics *2025 – 2031 (Expected)*
- Fields: Economic development, Macroeconomics

University of California, Berkeley Berkeley, CA
Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Computer Science *2019 – 2023*
- Highest Honors in Economics
- High Distinction in General Scholarship, GPA 3.961
- Senior Honors Thesis: *Tax Revenue Cyclicality and Income Inequality: Evidence from U.S. Counties from 1989 to 2019*, advised by Prof. Emi Nakamura

EXPERIENCE

Predoctoral Research Fellow July 2023 – June 2025
Harvard University *Cambridge, MA*
- Working with Prof. Melissa Dell on deep learning and its applications in economic history and political economy
- Develop deep learning pipelines to classify and analyze unstructured text and image datasets
- Apply models to extract accusations and fact-checking practices from historical news articles, identifying geographic and temporal patterns in media circulation and sensationalism during the McCarthy era
- Cluster and analyze historical newspaper images to study public reactions to key events (e.g., the Vietnam War) by comparing visual narratives across wire services
- Build and manage technical infrastructure, including scrapers for newspaper archives and Azure pipelines for full-edition newspaper digitization, and fine-tuned NLP models to improve various topic classification

Research Assistant Sept 2020 – May 2023
University of California, Berkeley *Berkeley, CA*
- (Fall 2022 – Spring 2023) Assisting Prof. Ulrike Malmendier on "*Politician Voting*": Assembled datasets from CRSP, stockwatcher, and other sources; performed analysis on how politicians' life experience affect their voting decisions and investment decisions; scraped amendment texts from the Library of Congress and performed NER on texts
- (Fall 2022) Assisting Prof. Robert Edelstein on "*Globalization and Climate Change*": Assembled warm-house gases and sustainable technology datasets; examined causal relationship with natural experiments
- (Fall 2021 – Spring 2022) Assisting Oliver Kim (PhD) and Joel Ferguson (PhD) on "*Satellite Imagery and Historical East Asian Economic Growth*": Applied machine learning methods and train satellite data to predict Chinese economic growth status during 1950-1960s; gathered gazetteer data and fetch geographical information used in training
- (Fall 2020 – Spring 2021) Assisting Jimmy Narang (PhD) on "*Misinformation and Belief Updating*": Helped with logistic and design of experiment model used in the research; gathered empirical observations and perform preliminary analyses

Teaching Assistant Sept 2021 – May 2023
University of California, Berkeley *Berkeley, CA*
- Working as teaching assistant for *Econ 148: Data Science for Economists* and *Data 88E: Economics Models*
- Developed and updated original course content (including textbook, lecture materials and lab Jupyter Notebooks)
- Gave lectures; hold discussion sections and office hours; manage class logistics (websites, discussion forums, etc.)

Peer Tutor and Course Liaison Jan 2021 – Dec 2021
University of California, Berkeley *Berkeley, CA*
- Provided drop-in tutoring service to students in *Econ 136: Financial Economics* class
- Coordinated peer tutors in the cluster and connect with the professor and offer students' feedback

HONORS AND AWARDS

Phi Beta Kappa
Michael and Chris Boskin Scholarship Award (2022)

Professional Activities

Referee: *Public Choice* (Springer Nature)