

# HAORAN WANG

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## Citizenship and Visa Status

China (F-1 Visa)

## Education

Ph.D. Economics, The Ohio State University, 2027 (Expected).  
M.A. Economics, The Ohio State University, 2023.  
M.A. Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2021.  
B.S. Economics, University at Albany, State University of New York, 2018.

## Research Fields

Labor Economics, Public Economics, Health Economics, Educational Economics

## Publications

***“Balancing efficiency and equity in classroom assignment under endogenous peer effects”, Lei Bill Wang, Om Prakash Bedant, Zhenbang Jiao, and Haoran Wang, Journal of Applied Economics***

Abstract: This paper develops a three-step empirical framework to optimize classroom assignments under endogenous peer effects. First, we design PeerNN, a neural network modeling friendship formation, generating a linkage-intensity matrix ( $\Omega$ ) that captures student popularity. Second, using quasi-random classroom assignments as an instrument, we estimate peer effects: a 10% increase in friends' 6th-grade class rank (weighted by  $\Omega$ ) increases 8th-grade test scores by 0.13 SD. Third, we simulate assignment policies. A genetic algorithm (GA) maximizing average peer effect yields a 1.9% gain but exacerbates inequality, disproportionately harming students with lower 6th-grade class ranks. We propose a variance-penalizing approach named Algorithmically Fair GA (AFGA), which achieves a 1.2% improvement while ensuring equitable outcomes. Our findings highlight the trade-off between efficiency and equity in classroom assignment policies and underscore the need for fairness-aware algorithms when designing group assignment policies.

## Working Papers

***“The Effects of Colorado's Pay Transparency among Older Workers”, Haoran Wang (Job Market Paper)***

Abstract: This paper studies the effects of Colorado's cross-firm pay transparency law, the Equal Pay for Equal Work Act (EPEWA), on the labor market outcomes of mid- to late-career workers aged 45–64. I examine how improved information about outside wage opportunities affects earnings, the gender wage gap, and labor supply for a group that may face relatively high search frictions and outdated wage information. Using a difference-in-differences design that exploits variation across states and over time, I find that pay transparency increases both weekly earnings and hourly wages, with larger wage gains among women and highly educated workers, and narrows the gender wage gap. The wage gains are observed among both job changers and job stayers, although they are larger for job changers, and they vary across occupations with different wage levels, wage dispersion, and age–wage profiles. Turning to labor supply, pay transparency increases employment and raises main-job working hours among employed workers in the short run. In contrast, I find limited effects among younger workers aged 25–44, with positive wage effects appearing among job changers. Survey evidence further shows that pay transparency increases workers' expectations about outside wage opportunities, raises reservation wages, and temporarily increases the perceived probability of receiving a job offer. Overall, the findings suggest

that cross-firm pay transparency is particularly valuable for mid- to late-career workers, whose beliefs about outside wage opportunities are more likely to be outdated.

***“The Effect of Public Long-term Health Insurance in China on Adult Children Labor Supply”***, Haoran Wang

Abstract: I study how China’s public long-term care insurance (LTCI) affects adult children’s labor supply by using staggered city-level policy implementation and eligibility of older parents. Using a triple-differences (and two difference-in-differences) framework, I find that parental LTCI eligibility raises adult children’s labor supply on the extensive margin. The effects are larger for daughters than for sons. Mechanism analyses show that children reduce time spent on caregiving while providing somewhat more financial support to parents. Parents’ transfers to children also increase, but this effect decreases significantly during the COVID-19 period. Furthermore, the labor-supply effects of LTCI on adult children are heterogeneous with respect to parental health and pandemic conditions: when parents have severe health problems during COVID-19, there is no labor-supply impact. Finally, compared with in-kind-only LTCI designs, LTCI combining in-kind and cash benefits is associated with larger adult children’s labor-supply responses but greater declines in children’s caregiving time and parents’ reported life satisfaction.

***“The Effects of SNAP Work Requirements on Self-Employment”***, Haoran Wang.

Abstract: This study examines the impact of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) work requirements on self-employment and SNAP participation among Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs). Using data from IPUMS-USA and Han (2022), the findings show that while work requirements do not affect overall self-employment rates, they discourage self-employed ABAWDs from participating in SNAP and push them to work longer hours to maintain SNAP eligibility. In contrast, work requirements have no effect on waged employed ABAWDs. Gender analysis reveals limited positive effects on male self-employment but negative effects on females, likely due to liquidity constraints and higher risk aversion. During economic downturns (gradually removing work requirement), work requirements reduce SNAP participation when need is highest, while in recovery periods (gradually imposing work requirement), they hinder female self-employment when opportunities increase. In summary, SNAP work requirements deter participation when assistance is most needed and disproportionately discourage female self-employment.

***“The Effects of SNAP Work Requirements on Immigrants”***, Haoran Wang

Abstract: This study examines the impact of waivers of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) work requirements on Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) in immigrant families during the economic recession (2007–2010). Drawing on data from IPUMS-USA and Han (2022), the findings show that the waivers encourage ABAWDs in immigrant families to participate in SNAP, no effect on their employment, but reducing their conditional working hours. Moreover, a heterogeneous analysis reveals that these effects are primarily observed among immigrants with citizenship. Furthermore, using the food security supplement from the CPS Basic Monthly survey, the study finds that the waivers positively increase the probability of being food secure among immigrant families and consistently reduce the likelihood of experiencing severe food insecurity. Therefore, by lowering the barriers to SNAP participation, the government can encourage immigrants to participate in SNAP and alleviate food insecurity, especially during economic downturns.

## **Works in Progress**

***“How Does Family Structure Influence Women’s Bargaining Power in the Labor Market?”*** Haoran Wang

## **Research Experience**

Research Assistant, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Summer 2020-Fall 2020.

Research Assistant, South-Central Minzu University (China), Summer, 2018.

## **Teaching Experience**

Principles of Macroeconomics, Lecture, The Ohio State University, Summer 2026

Principles of Microeconomics, TA, The Ohio State University, Spring 2026

Principles of Microeconomics, TA, The Ohio State University, Fall 2025  
Principles of Macroeconomics, Lecture, The Ohio State University, Summer 2025  
Principles of Microeconomics, TA, The Ohio State University, Spring 2025  
Principles of Microeconomics, TA, The Ohio State University, Fall 2024  
Principles of Microeconomics, TA, The Ohio State University, Spring 2024  
Principles of Microeconomics, TA, The Ohio State University, Fall 2023

## Conference and Seminar Presentations

**2026** Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Houston; OSU Micro Lunch  
**2025** Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Tampa; OSU Micro Lunch  
**2024** Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC; OSU Micro Lunch  
**2023** OSU Micro Lunch

## Internship

Bank of China (Xiangyang Branch), Financial Management Department, summer 2017

## Honors & Awards

Departmental Citations for Excellence in Teaching (DCET), 2026  
The First Place of Edward F. Hayes Advanced Research Forum, 2024  
Excellent Academic Achievement in Economics, 2018  
Induction into the Phi Beta Kappa, 2018  
Dean's List of Distinguished Students, 2017  
The National Society of the Collegiate Scholars, 2016

## Tools and Programming

Stata, MATLAB, Python, R, MS Office Software

## Languages

Chinese (Native), English (Fluent), Japanese (Elementary)

## References

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