# YUZHI ZHOU (EMRYS)

Research School of Economics, Australian National University | Canberra, ACT, Australia
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## EDUCATION

**PhD in Economics**

*Australian National University, Research School of Economics* | 2022 to present (expected submission late 2026)

- Supervisory panel: Associate Professor Ashley C. Craig (Chair) and Maria Racionero Llorente, Research School of Economics, ANU; Johannes Kunz, Centre for Health Economics, Monash University.

**Master of Economics**

*Australian National University* | 2020 to 2022

- Graduated with Commendation.
- Thesis examined how government policy affected the wellbeing of self-employed workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Bachelor of Auditing**

*Shanghai Lixin University of Accounting and Finance* | 2016 to 2020

- Undergraduate thesis analysed the effect of targeted poverty alleviation policies on access to medical resources in remote areas of China.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Economics of Education; Health Economics; Applied Microeconomics.

Peer effects, educational inequality, and student health and wellbeing.

## PUBLICATIONS

Dai, C., & Zhou, Y. (2025). Rank, peer achievement, and shadow education: evidence from secondary school students in China. *Economics of Education Review*, 108, 102682. doi.org/10.1016/j.econedurev.2025.102682.

Peer-reviewed. Q1-ranked field journal. Examines the causal effect of a student's ordinal academic rank within their classroom on subsequent achievement, using a regression discontinuity design applied to multi-cohort national panel survey data. Finds a significant positive rank effect, operating partly through increased household investment in shadow (private tutoring) education, with heterogeneous effects by gender and socioeconomic background.

## WORKING PAPERS

Zhou, Y. (2025). *When Ambitions Align: Peer Parental Aspiration and Student Achievement.* Working paper, Research School of Economics, Australian National University. Available at SSRN.

Extends the peer-effects literature by examining whether the educational aspirations of peers' parents, rather than peers' own academic ability, propagate through social networks to influence student achievement. Identification relies on quasi-random variation in classroom peer composition across cohorts.

**Policy engagement:** Prepared a submission on parental aspirations for the House Standing Committee on Education's inquiry into educational attainment and presented evidence at its Parliament House hearing.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2026 PhD Conference in Economics and Business, University of Sydney, Australia. November 2026. *(forthcoming)*

47th Annual Australian Health Economics Society (AHES) Conference, Hobart, Australia. September 2026.

Australian Conference of Economists (ACE), University of Canberra, Australia. July 2026.

Chinese Economists Society (CES) China Annual Conference, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, Chengdu, China. July 2026.

5th Asian Economic Development Conference (AEDC), Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong, China. June 2026.

3rd Development Economics Workshop (DEW), Durham University Business School, UK. June 2026.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Tutor** | *Research School of Economics, Australian National University* | *2022 to present*

- Business and Economic Forecasting (EMET3007 / EMET6012) and Public Sector Economics (ECON6034): tutorials, problem sets and structured written and verbal feedback.
- Student evaluations (SELT) average 4.7 out of 5 across 401 enrolments, and 4.9 out of 5 in Business and Economic Forecasting. Full reports available on request.

**Academic Mentor** | *Toad Hall, Australian National University* | *2024 to present*

- One-to-one mentoring and feedback for undergraduate residents from diverse backgrounds, many studying in a second language.

**Courses I am prepared to teach:** Public Economics; Business and Economic Forecasting / Applied Time Series; Econometrics (introductory and intermediate); Intermediate Microeconomics; Applied Microeconomics and Education Economics; Applied Data Analysis (R, Python, Stata).

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**PhD Researcher** | *Australian National University* | *2022 to present*

- Construct and manage multi-cohort panel survey datasets: wave linkage, attrition and sampling weights, harmonisation across rounds, validation and documentation for reproducibility.
- Apply regression, quasi-experimental designs (regression discontinuity) and forecasting methods; test results against alternative specifications before reporting.
- Published peer-reviewed research in a leading field journal; second paper in progress.

## SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

**Seminar Coordinator** | *Research School of Economics, ANU* | *Jul 2025 to present*

- Manage the RSE seminar programme end to end: speaker invitations, scheduling a year ahead, venue logistics and communications with academic staff, visiting researchers and professional services.
- Coordinate across the School and with external institutions to deliver every event to fixed dates; built cross-institutional networks spanning Australian and international economics communities.

**HDR Student Representative** | *ANU College of Business and Economics* | *2024 to present*

- Represent HDR candidates on College-level committees, communicating student priorities to academic leadership.

**Committee Member** | *Economic Society of Australia (ACT Branch)* | *2025 to present*

- Plan and coordinate professional seminars connecting economists, policymakers and researchers across government, academia and industry.

## GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Postgraduate Research Scholarship, Australian National University (2023 to 2027)
- Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Fee Remission Merit Scholarship, Australian National University (2023 to 2027)
- National English Competition for College Students, First Prize (2019)
- National English Competition for College Students, Third Prize (2018)
- 4th National College Student Financial Elite Challenge, Third Prize (2018)
- Multiple Academic Scholarships, Shanghai Lixin University of Accounting and Finance (2017 to 2020)

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Archive Records Clerk** | *Australian Family Lawyers, Canberra | 2023 to 2024*

- Processed and archived sensitive legal documents under strict confidentiality and privacy standards, with no breaches recorded across the engagement.

**Fixed Income Division Intern** | *Guosen Securities Co., Ltd., China | Jun to Aug 2021*

- Reviewed bond prospectuses across eight issuance projects and checked 17 bond documentation packages for financial accuracy and compliance; all cleared without material error.

**Analyst Intern, Smart Education Department** | *PingAn Technology Shenzhen Co., Ltd., China | Dec 2019 to Feb 2021*

- Maintained and quality-checked administrative datasets for education analytics, producing structured outputs for strategic reporting.

**Commercial Insurance Intern** | *AXA Tianping Co., Ltd., China | Aug to Nov 2019*

- Tracked and reported campaign performance across more than 20 client accounts; managed policy issuance and commercial budget accountabilities.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Software: R (fixest, rdrobust) as primary tool, Python, Stata, advanced Excel (pivot tables, formula-driven models), LaTeX, R Markdown for reproducible reporting.
- Methods: Regression analysis, quasi-experimental design (regression discontinuity), forecasting (seasonal decomposition, autoregressive models), panel data construction and record linkage.
- Languages: English (near-native proficiency); Mandarin Chinese (native speaker).

## REFERENCES

**Ashley C. Craig**
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**Maria Racionero Llorente**
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