Anran Liu 刘安然

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My research asks how distance, trust, and information keep people and firms from markets, and how digital technology changes each of them.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics Sept. 2023 – Expected 2027
University of California, Davis

- M.A. in Economics (en route to Ph.D.), 2024.

M.M. in Agricultural Economics and Management Sept. 2020 – Jul. 2023
Renmin University of China

- Overall GPA: 3.90 / 4.00. Major GPA: 4.00 / 4.00 (top 1%).

B.A. in Economics Sept. 2016 – Jul. 2020
Capital University of Economics and Business

- Cumulative GPA: 4.38 / 5.00 (94.03 / 100; top 1%).

RESEARCH FIELDS

Labor Economics, Public Economics, Development Economics

JOB MARKET PAPER

Poor People or Poor Places? Evidence from China's Poverty Alleviation Relocation

Is extreme rural poverty a property of the people or the place? I study this question using China's Poverty Alleviation Relocation program, which moved 9.61 million residents out of remote villages between 2016 and 2020. Exploiting the staggered timing of destination housing construction, I estimate the impact of moving these communities closer to labor markets. Relocation increases adult employment by 20 percent and annual earnings by 38 percent. These gains occur among both new entrants to wage labor and existing workers. Per relocated adult, the rise in non-farm work comes to most of the gap between comparable town and village households. Heterogeneity analysis shows that earnings gains are largest for households experiencing the greatest reduction in travel time to the county seat. Combined with the value of new housing, the long-run income gains exceed the program's costs. I conclude that geographic isolation is a binding constraint on the earning potential of the remote poor. By relaxing this spatial constraint, relocation suggests that for these households the gap with the towns is largely a property of the place.

Presentations: Econometric Society NASM and AMES 2026; GLO Conference 2026 (job market session); SUFE National Doctoral Forum in Applied Economics 2026; CES 2026; CUFE International Doctoral Forum; UC Davis (ARE Development Seminar, Development Tea, Applied Micro Student Talk Series); ANU Asian Perspective Seminar.

REVISE AND RESUBMIT

- **Bringing E-commerce to the Countryside: Impacts on Rural Household Welfare and Economic Inequality**, with Mingzhe Wang, Jia Tang, and Dongyue Chen. **Revise and resubmit (second round), *World Development*.**
  Presentations: PacDev 2026; CES 2025; AAEA 2025 (poster); 12th ICCE.
- **Land as Old-Age Security: How Land Titling Reshapes Rural Labor Supply in China**, with Luoqi Yuan and Jianjun Tang. **Revise and resubmit (second round, resubmitted), *Journal of Population Economics*.**
  Presentations: GLO-JOPE Conference 2025; 17th CHLR Symposium on Human Capital and Labor Markets; Labor Science Education Committee Annual Meeting 2026 (Academic Rising Star Award).

WORKING PAPERS

- **Who Holds the Pen? Shared AI Advisors and the Defense of Screening Signals**. *Presentations:* Economic Science Society Asia Meeting 2026.
- **The Hospital Premium: Patient Sorting and Inpatient Spending in China**, with Yuzheng Wang.
- **When Externalities Interact: Air Pollution, Driving, and Urban Congestion**, with Jing Cao, Xiangyu Du, Chen Xi, and Shaojun Zhang.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- **Government Relocation and the Reorganization of Urban Economic Activity**, with Mingzhe Wang.
- **Generative AI and the Minimum Scale of Knowledge Work**.

PUBLICATIONS FROM PRE-PHD RESEARCH

- **Alleviating Multi-Dimensional Poverty through Land Transfer: Evidence from Poverty-Stricken Villages in China**, with Chengyou Li, Yong Jiao, and Tao Sun. *China Economic Review*, 2021.
- **Debt Repayment Capacity, Credit Constraints, and Rural Household Living Standards**, with Meiyu Liu and Sujian Huang. *Economic Perspectives* (in Chinese), 2024(1).
- **From Difference-in-Differences to Event Studies**, with Wei Huang and Ziyao Zhang. *Review of Industrial Economics* (in Chinese), 2022(2).
- **Old-Age Dependence, Nonfarm Employment, and Farmland Renting-Out among Middle-Aged and Older Rural Households**, with Chengyou Li, Luoqi Yuan, and Chuankun Kang. *China Soft Science* (in Chinese), 2020(7).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant Sept. 2023 – Present
Department of Economics, UC Davis

- Economic History; Intermediate Microeconomic Theory I & II; Principles of Microeconomics; Economic Development.

Teaching Assistant Sept. 2020 – Jul. 2023
School of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, Renmin University of China

- Advanced Econometrics; Dynamic Optimization; Principles of Economics; Applied Econometrics.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Dr. Yiqing Xu Sept. 2022 – Jun. 2023
Stanford University

- Supported research on factor-based difference-in-differences and high-dimensional fixed-effects estimators; served as TA in the Lianxianghui econometrics training series on staggered DID.

Research Assistant to Dr. Chang Liu Jan. 2021 – Dec. 2022
Renmin University of China

- Contributed to an NSFC youth project on the economic impacts of the "universal two-child" policy on fertility and labor allocation.

HONORS & AWARDS

- Academic Rising Star Award, Labor Science Education Committee Annual Meeting 2026
- Dean's Graduate Summer Support Award, UC Davis 2026
- Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-Financed Students Abroad (Category A) 2026
- Department Travel Award, UC Davis 2024–2026
- First Year Department Fellowship, Department of Economics, UC Davis 2023–2024
- Beijing Outstanding Graduate (top 1%), graduate and undergraduate 2020, 2023
- Outstanding Winner (top 0.25%), Mathematical Contest in Modeling (MCM) 2020
- National Scholarship (China's top academic scholarship for students) 2019

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Student Organizer, Applied Micro Student Talk Series, UC Davis 2024–2026
- Student Organizer, Camphora Economic Circle (CEC) – Green Seedling Plan 2021

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Languages:** Mandarin Chinese (Native), English (Fluent). **Software:** Stata, Python, R, LaTeX

REFERENCES

Giovanni Peri (Chair)
Professor
Department of Economics
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