

LEXIN CAI – Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

Exp 2026	Ph.D. in Economics, Cornell University
2015	M.S. in Social Policy, University of Pennsylvania
2013	B.S. in Public Administration, Renmin University of China

RESEARCH FIELDS

Labor Economics, Public Finance, Economics of Education

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Long-Term Effects of Universal Free School Meal Policies: Evidence from the Community Eligibility Provision”

“Effects of Work Requirements in Means-Tested Programs,” (with Pauline Leung and Hyewon Kim)

“Work Requirements in SNAP and Postsecondary Enrollment,” (with Meredith Welch)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022–2024	Research Assistant for Zhuan Pei, Cornell University
2021–2022	Research Assistant for Pauline Leung, Cornell University
2018–2020	Research Analyst, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
2016–2018	Research Associate, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
2015–2016	Research Intern, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
2014–2015	Research Intern, World Wildlife Fund

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2022	Teaching Assistant, Behavioral Economics and Public Policy, Cornell University
Fall 2021	Teaching Assistant, Economics of the Public Sector, Cornell University

GRANTS

2024	Policy Impacts Early-Career Scholars Grant
2024	Labor Economics Small Grant, Cornell University

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

2023–2024	Jain Family Institute - Brooks School Fellow
2022	Outstanding TA Award, Cornell Brooks School of Public Policy
2020–present	Sage Fellowship, Cornell University
2014	Dean’s Merit Award, University of Pennsylvania
2012	Global KU Scholarship, Korea University
2010–2013	National Scholarship, Renmin University of China (x3)

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

2025	Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Annual Conference*, Midwestern Economic Association (MEA) Annual Conference*, Policy Impacts Conference*
2024	Association for Public Policy and Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference, Cornell Labor Work in Progress Seminar
2023	Cornell Labor Work in Progress Seminar * <i>scheduled</i>

SERVICE

2022–present	Executive Board Member, Diversity in Cornell Economics
2022–present	Mentor, Cornell Graduate Student Association for Economics
2022–2024	Student Representative, Cornell Economics Diversity and Inclusion Committee
2021–2022	Social Co-chair, Cornell Graduate Students in Public Policy
2014–2015	Co-founder, Wonk Tank, Penn Wharton Public Policy Initiative

OTHER

Programming	Stata, R, SAS, LaTeX
Languages	English (fluent), Mandarin (native), Cantonese (fluent), Korean (basic)
Data clearance	U.S. Census Bureau Special Sworn Status
Citizenship	U.S. Citizen

REFERENCES

Zhuan Pei (Chair)	Associate Professor, Cornell University zhuan.pei@cornell.edu
Maria D. Fitzpatrick	Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Cornell University maria.d.fitzpatrick@cornell.edu
Pauline Leung	Assistant Professor, Cornell University pleung@cornell.edu

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