Yifan ZHANG

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Education

Ph.D. student in Economics, Toulouse School of Economics, 2020 - present.

Visiting student, Department of Economics, Northwestern University, April-July 2024

M.A. in Economic Theory and Econometrics, Toulouse School of Economics, 2020

B.B.A. in Economics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, 2018

Research Interest

Economic History, Development Economics, Political Economy, Culture and Institution

Working Papers

The Transmission of Son Preference *Job Market Paper*
Abstract This study explores the persistence and transmission of son preference. Son preference is measured by exploiting a cultural feature, ancestor worship, which emphasizes the importance of having a son in China. To isolate the effect of son preference culture from institutions, a historical experiment, Kuomingtang's (KMT) Retreat to Taiwan, is employed to explore the cultural transmission of son preference. Between 1945 and 1954, KMT resettled approximately one million Chinese in Taiwan, without regard for their cultural background, to meet the party's needs. This bold move resulted in local Taiwanese and Chinese migrants being exposed to groups with vastly different son preference beliefs and behaviors. By combining KMT Retreat and the introduction of sex-selective abortion in 1985, I identify the effect of migrants' ancestor worship on sex selection by using a difference-in-differences framework. The effect is stronger for culturally closer groups and when adopting migrant cultures is less costly. Additionally, I dissect the cultural transmission of son preference in three categories: transmission from migrants to locals, through family, and within migrant communities. I also find migrants' ancestor worship permanently altered individuals' beliefs about ancestors, family, and sons.

Radio Propaganda and Brave New World
Abstract Drawing on individual-level data from the 2000-15 population censuses and 2010-20 social surveys, I analyze the consequences of radio propaganda from Taiwan on mainland China. My preliminary results suggest that individuals who lived in areas with better exposure to the Voice of Free China during adolescence are less likely to join the bureaucratic system and the Chinese Communist Party. Besides, they have lower trust to the local government but are more like to start their own business.

Teaching Experience

Teaching assistant for Microeconomics (First-year Bachelor), TSE, Prof. Lucie BOTTEGA, Prof. Sébastien PARENTY, and Prof. Vincent REBEYROL, spring 2024

Teaching assistant for Macroeconomics (Second-year Bachelor), TSE, Prof. Lucie BOTTEGA, Prof. Patrick FEVE, and Prof. Isabella PECHOUX, fall 2023

Teaching assistant for Program Evaluation (First-year Master), TSE, Prof. Thierry MAGNAC and Prof. Vishal KAMAT, spring 2023

Teaching assistant for Industrial Organization (Third-year Bachelor), TSE, Prof. Farid GASMI and Prof. Isabelle DUBEC, spring 2022

Grants & Awards

Conference Bursary, Economic History Society	2024
Mobility Grant (7180 EUR), Toulouse School of Economics	2024
Doctoral Fellowship, French Ministry of Education	2021-2024
First-year Ph.D. Student Fellowship, Toulouse School of Economics	2020
The Galaxy World Student Entrepreneur Fund (80,000 CNY)	2015
Half Tuition Scholarship, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen	2014-2018

Seminars & Conferences

2024 ASREC Annual Conference, Cliometric Annual Conference, Econometric Society European Meeting, Economic History Society Annual Conference, Stockholm School of Economics, London School of Economics (Economic History), Northwestern University

2021-2023 Quantitative History Workshop, ENTER Jamboree, Toulouse School of Economics (BID Workshop x2, PhD Workshop x2, Empirical Micro Workshop), ENTER Jamboree webinar (discussant)

Referee Service

Economics of Transition and Institutional Change

Others

Languages: Mandarin Chinese (native), Cantonese (fluent), English (fluent), French (basic)

IT skills: ArcGIS, Matlab, Python, R, Stata