

HUIYI CHEN

Phone: (+1) 801-448-8869 ◊ Email: hc973@cornell.edu

Address: 366 Warren Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA

Personal Website: www.hui-yi-chen.com

EDUCATION

Cornell University

PhD Candidate, Applied Economics & Management

Charles H. Dyson School

Primary Fields: Political Economy, Labor Economics

Secondary Fields: Development Economics, Public Finance

July 2018 - Present

Degree Expected Spring 2024

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)

Bachelor of Arts, Economics (with distinction), History

Minor in Mathematics

Summa Cum Laude

August 2014 - December 2017

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research passion is the political economy of developing nations. I am interested in exploring the interplay between government and citizens from a labor perspective. I seek to understand the formation of labor movements, examine how local labor markets respond to political events, and explore the role of technology and social media in driving social change for workers.

WORKING PAPERS

Raising Grievances to the State: The Political Economic Effects of Anti-Corruption Crackdown on Labor Activism in China

Job Market Paper

Government-firm corruption can affect workers' welfare and strike decisions. This paper presents a simple model examining a worker's decision to strike and the influence of corruption on that decision. The model predicts that higher corruption decreases workers' return to strike by increasing workers' perceived firm-government corruption. I then test the model by studying the impact of China's anti-corruption crackdown on strikes, leveraging temporal and geographical variations in corruption inspections. To test this, I built a unique dataset by combining city-level labor strikes and inspections. Following a first high-profile corruption inspection in a city, strikes doubled within one year and tripled within two years. The increase in strikes was mainly in private construction and manufacturing sectors with wage arrears as the primary reason, predominantly in cities with high prior corruption levels. The rise in strikes also saw network effects across cities; cities not yet inspected saw strike increase after other cities in the same province or neighboring cities underwent inspections and saw strike increase. Confirming the model's prediction, the inspections increased workers' expected return to strike, thereby revealing pre-existing grievances in a corrupt environment. A back-of-the-envelope calculation estimates a welfare loss to workers of up to 1.2 billion yuan (\$170 million) without the anti-corruption crackdown.

Conference Presentations: 21st Journées Louis-André Gérard-Varet (2022), 100 Years of Economic Development (2022), North East Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) (2022), 20th Midwest International Economic Development Conference (MWIEDC) (2023)

Who Bears the Cost of Nationalism? A Spatial Analysis on the Unintended Economic Consequences of Nationalist Boycotts

Revise & Resubmit, Economic Inquiry

Politically motivated boycotts aim to harm the sales of goods associated with foreign rivals, but can also harm the domestic economy if the goods are domestically produced. This paper examines the unintended effects of the 2012 Chinese boycott of Japanese cars on China's automobile supply chain. By comparing changes in employment between auto parts and non-parts industries located at various distances from Japanese joint ventures (JV), I find that auto parts manufacturers near the Japanese JVs experienced a 6-11% reduction in employment after the boycott. A back-of-the-envelope calculation shows that this equates to 2.2 billion to 7.6 billion yuan of forgone wages, equivalent to 1.5-5.3% of the profit in the Chinese auto parts industry in 2012.

Conference Presentation: Midwest Economic Theory and International Trade Conference (2022)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Labor Strikes and Social Networks

with Nancy Chau and Oleg Firsin

Social media platforms such as Facebook play a significant role in facilitating and spreading labor strikes. Using the Cornell ILR School's Labor Action Tracker, our study shows a significant positive correlation in the frequency of labor strikes between own county and the other counties connected to own county via strong Facebook friendship networks during 2021-2022. We then tested various county-to-county linkages and found that the spread of strikes across counties correlates uniquely with social media friendships, rather than with other types of connections like geography, industry, or political ideology. This highlights the vital role of social networks in organizing labor movements. We are currently conducting further analyses to explore the underlying mechanisms.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

AEM 6700 Economics of Consumer Demand (Prof. Miguel Gomez)

Fall 2019, Fall 2020

Teaching Assistant

- Held Stata tutorials for master's students
- Taught a lecture on the Almost Ideal Demand System (AIDS) model
- Won "Graduate Teaching Assistant - Outstanding Service" for Fall 2019

AEM 3390/6390 International Development (Prof. Arnab Basu)

Spring 2020

Teaching Assistant

- Held Stata and R tutorials
- Taught 4 lectures on probability theory, OLS, and discrete choice models

AEM 7021 General Equilibrium (Prof. Nancy Chau)

Spring 2021, Spring 2022

Teaching Assistant

AEM 2600 Managerial Economics (Prof. Benjamin Leyden)

Fall 2021

Teaching Assistant

ECON 4260 Public Finance (Prof. Jennifer P. Wissink)

Fall 2023

Teaching Assistant

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- Adlerbert Graduate Assistantship Fund, Cornell Dyson, 2023
- Conference Grant, Cornell Graduate School, Spring 2022, Fall 2022
- Ashley Graduate Fellowship, Cornell Dyson, 2022
- Small Grant in Labor Economics, Cornell Dept. of Economics, 2022
- Dyson Fellowship Award, Cornell Dyson, 2021
- Graduate Teaching Assistant - Outstanding Service, Cornell Dyson, 2020
- LAS Humanities and Social Science Scholarship (\$40,000), UIUC, 2014-2017
- Robert L. and Amelia Louise Rivers Scholarship, UIUC Dept. of Economics, 2017
- Robert H. Bierma Scholarship, UIUC Dept. of History, 2017
- Honors Research Scholarship, UIUC Dept. of Economics, 2017
- Diversity & Inclusion Award, UIUC Dept. of Economics, 2017
- Economics Distinction Award, UIUC Dept. of Economics, 2017
- LAS Dean's List, UIUC, 2014-2017

REFEREE SERVICES

Economic Modelling, Eastern Economic Journal

SKILLS

Software	R, Stata, Matlab, QGIS, L ^A T _E X
Languages	English, Chinese (native)

OTHERS

Nationality	China
Immigration Status	U.S. Permanent Resident

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nancy H. Chau (Chair)

Professor
 Charles H. Dyson School of Applied
 Economics and Management
 Cornell University
 ☎ +1 (607)-255-4463
 ✉ hyc3@cornell.edu

Marco Battaglini

Edward H. Meyer Professor of Economics
 Department of Economics
 Cornell University
 ☎ +1 (607)-255-3052
 ✉ battaglini@cornell.edu

Nicolas Bottan

Assistant Professor
 Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy
 and the Department of Economics
 Cornell University
 ☎ +1 (607)-255-5724
 ✉ nicolas.bottan@cornell.edu