

**Institute for Economic
and Social Research,
Jinan University**

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Guangzhou, Guangdong, China 510632



暨南大學
JINAN UNIVERSITY



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and Social Research
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暨南大學
JINAN UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1906, Jinan University (JNU) has a long and successful history in economics education and international cooperation. As one of the earliest universities in China to offer an economics and business major, JNU was the first university to enroll overseas students. Located in Guangzhou, China's third-largest city and a commercial and trading center, JNU is a rapidly-growing university with over 300,000 alumni in over 170 countries. In 2018, JNU was recognized by Tilburg University as the 7th best university for economics in China and the 19th best university for economics in Asia.



Introduction

The Institute for Economic and Social Research (IESR) was founded at Jinan University in December 2015. Since then, IESR has been leading in economics education, research, public service, and international cooperation. Operating under the leadership of internationally renowned scholars, including Professor Shuaizhang Feng as Dean and Professor James Heckman as Chair of the Advisory Board, IESR currently has 35 full-time faculty members, many of whom are graduates of renowned institutions such as the University of Chicago, London School of Economics and Political Science, Northwestern University and University of California, Berkeley. Research at IESR covers all major economic fields, and undergraduate and graduate students receive rigorous training in economics. The Institute runs a Survey Data Center for data collection and management, and a Policy Research Center for policy analysis and evaluation.



Professor Shuaizhang Feng

The mission of the Institute is to advance policy-oriented economic and social research by addressing pressing social and economic issues in China. Specifically, IESR aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Develop China-based research programs in applied economics and other fields
- Collect original survey data related to China's economic and social development
- Build a leading Chinese think tank to inform and influence national policymaking
- Guide IESR students to become future leaders in economic and social research
- Facilitate academic exchanges between scholars in China and abroad

8 Centers

Center for Labor Economics
Center for International Trade and Firms
Center for Real Estate and Regional Economics
Center for Ecological Civilization and Environmental Economics
Center for Econometrics and Microdata Practice
Survey Data Center
Center for Policy Research
Center for Development and Exchange

35 Full-time faculty members

214 Research papers published (or accepted)

87 Research grants received

500+ Academic events

130 Undergraduate students

42 Graduate students

19 Master programs in Economics launched with 8 overseas universities



Chair of the Advisory Board



James J. Heckman

James J. Heckman is a 2000 Nobel Prize Laureate in Economics and the Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago. He is Director of the Center for the Economics of Human Development (CEHD) and Co-Director of Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group (HCEO) at the University of Chicago. Professor Heckman has worked closely with IESR since its launch in late 2015 and now serves as Chair of the IESR Advisory Board.

March 2016

Professor Heckman visited IESR for the first time and set the foundation for IESR's future cooperation with the University of Chicago.

June 2016

IESR and HCEO co-organized the first Guangzhou Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality, which continued as a collaborative summer event to this day.

September 2016

IESR and CEHD co-launched the Longitudinal Study of Children's Development in Mianzhu to explore how to measure the traits, skills, and preferences that determine important life outcomes for children. The project is also crucial for understanding how parental absence affects the cognitive and non-cognitive development of left-behind children.

October 2016

IESR and CEHD co-hosted the Asian Family in Transition Conference on Migration, and Professor Heckman was appointed Chair of the IESR Advisory Board.

July 2018

IESR and CEHD formally co-launched the Chicago-Jinan Joint Initiative on the Study of Human Development, which served as a research home for our students/faculty and visiting scholars from guest institutions.

September 2018

Professor Heckman attended the Chicago-Jinan Joint Initiative Workshop 2018 and gave a public lecture entitled "China's Investment in Skills" at Jinan University.

June 2019

Professor Heckman delivered the keynote lecture entitled "A Dynamic Model of Health, Addiction, Education, and Wealth" at the 2019 China Meeting of the Econometric Society held by IESR.

October 2019

Professor Heckman received the Chinese Government Friendship Award, the country's highest honor to foreign experts in recognition of their contribution to China's social and economic development.

January 2020

Professor Heckman participated in the IESR Reception at the ASSA 2020 Annual Meeting in San Diego.

May 2021

Professor Heckman delivered a keynote speech entitled "Treatment Effects and the Measurement of Skills in a Prototypical Home Visiting Program" at the forum of Children of Migrants.

May 2023

Professor James J. Heckman delivered a lecture entitled "Interactions as Investments: The Microdynamics and Measurement of Early Childhood Learning". After the lecture, Professor Heckman had face-to-face discussions with six IESR undergraduate students.



Full-time faculty members

(In alphabetical order)



Shiyu Bo

Associate Professor
Associate Dean

Ph.D., London School of Economics, 2016

Research Fields:

Development Economics, Political Economy, Urban Economics,
Regional Economics



Shu Cai

Associate Professor

Ph.D., Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, 2016

Research Fields:

Development Economics, Labor Economics



Siyu Chen

Associate Professor

Ph.D., National University of Singapore, 2019

Research Fields:

Labor Economics, Environmental Economics, Financial Economics



Yunho Cho

Associate Professor

Ph.D., University of Melbourne, 2018

Research Fields:

Macroeconomics, Real Estate Economics, Labor Economics



Xiaomeng Cui

Associate Professor

Ph.D., University of California, Davis, 2018

Research Fields:

Environmental Economics, Agricultural Economics, Resource Economics



Shuaizhang Feng

Professor
Dean

Ph.D., Cornell University, 2006

Research Field:

Labor Economics



Yujie Han

Associate Professor

Ph.D., The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2017

Research Fields:

Education Economics, Labor Economics, Agricultural Economics



Chengzheng Li

Associate Professor

Ph.D., Shanghai Jiao Tong University, 2017

Research Fields:

Agricultural Economics, Resource Economics, Development Economics



Runliang Li

Assistant Professor

Ph.D., Maastricht University, 2018

Research Fields:

Financial Economics, Environmental Economics



Shujuan Li

Associate Professor

Ph.D., Sun Yat-sen University, 2016

Research Fields:

Political Economy, Development Economics, Environmental Economics



Wei Lin

Assistant Professor

Ph.D., Michigan State University, 2016

Research Fields:

Econometrics, Labor Economics



Kaixin Liu

Assistant Professor

Ph.D., University of Rochester, 2022

Research Fields:

Labor Economics, Public Economics, Applied Economics, Inequality



Ke Liu

Assistant Professor

Ph.D., Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, 2018

Research Fields:

Industrial Organization, Game Theory



Cong Liu

Associate Professor

Ph.D., University of Arizona, 2016

Research Fields:

Economic History, Development Economics



Shimeng Liu

Associate Professor

Ph.D., Syracuse University, 2014

Research Fields:

Urban Economics, Regional Economics, Real Estate Economics, Labor Economics



Jingliang Lu

Associate Professor
Associate Dean

Ph.D., Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, 2014

Research Field:

Labor Economics



Sen Ma

Associate Professor

Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2018

Research Fields:

Development Economics, Environmental Economics, Family Economics, International Economics



Shiko Maruyama

Professor

Ph.D., Northwestern University, 2007

Research Fields:

Health Economics, Microeconometrics, Labor Economics, Public Finance



Wei Qiao

Assistant Professor

Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University, 2022

Research Fields:

Macroeconomics, Monetary Economics, Financial Economics



Yun Qiu

Associate Professor

Ph.D., The Ohio State University, 2016

Research Field:

Environmental Economics



Wei Shi

Professor
Associate Dean

Ph.D., The Ohio State University, 2016

Research Fields:

Econometrics, Urban Economics, Real Estate Economics



Ji-Liang Shiu

Professor

Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University, 2009

Research Fields:

Econometrics, Labor Economics



Gaojie Tang

Associate Professor

Ph.D., Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, 2019

Research Fields:

Labor Economics, Health Economics



Lixin Tang

Associate Professor

Ph.D., University of Maryland, 2015

Research Fields:

International Economics, Development Economics



Qu Tang

Associate Professor

Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, 2015

Research Fields:

Environmental Economics, Industrial Organization



Xi Wang

Associate Professor

Ph.D., Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, 2015

Research Field:

Econometrics



Wuyi Wang

Associate Professor

Ph.D., Singapore Management University, 2018

Research Field:

Econometrics



Zijian Wang

Assistant Professor

Ph.D., Bocconi University, 2021

Research Fields:

Information Economics, Monetary Economics, Firm Dynamics



Bin Xie

Assistant Professor

Ph.D., Rutgers University, 2017

Research Fields:

Labor Economics, Economic History



Sen Xue

Associate Professor

Ph.D., Australian National University, 2015

Research Fields:

Labor Economics, Development Economics



Zizhong Yan

Associate Professor

Ph.D., The University of Warwick, 2017

Research Fields:

Econometrics, Education Economics



Shuangyu Yang

Assistant Professor

Ph.D., National University of Singapore, 2023

Research Field:

Behavioral Economics, Experimental Economics



Yi Zhang

Assistant Professor

Ph.D., Boston University, 2018

Research Field:

Econometrics



Li Zheng

Assistant Professor

Ph.D., Texas A&M University, 2020

Research Field:

Econometrics



Hongjia Zhu

Associate Professor
Associate Dean

Ph.D., University of New South Wales, 2014

Research Fields:

Urban Economics, Real Estate Economics, Environmental Economics

Research

Selected Recent Publications

Feng, Shuaizhang, Yujie Han, James J. Heckman, & Tim Kautz. (2022). Comparing the Reliability and Predictive Power of Child, Teacher, and Guardian Reports of Noncognitive Skills. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 119(6), e2113992119.

Chen, Yuanyuan, **Shuaizhang Feng**, James J. Heckman, & Tim Kautz. (2020). Sensitivity of Self-Reported Noncognitive Skills to Survey Administration Conditions. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 117(2): 931-935.

Chen, Yi, Ziyang Fan, Xiaomin Gu, & Li-An Zhou. (2020). Arrival of Young Talent: The Send-Down Movement and Rural Education in China. *American Economic Review*, 110(11): 3393-3430.

Brandt, Loren, Feitao Jiang, Yao Luo, & **Yingjun Su**. (2022). Ownership and Productivity in Vertically-Integrated Firms: Evidence from the Chinese Steel Industry. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 104(1): 101-115..

Cho, Yunho, Shuyun Li, & Lawrence Uren. (2023). Investment Housing Tax Concessions and Welfare: A Quantitative Study for Australia. *International Economic Review*, forthcoming.

Hu, Guanliang, Guoxuan Ma, **Wei Qiao**, & Neil Wallace. (2023). Conventional Monetary Policy in OLG Models: Revisiting the Asset-substitution Channel. *International Economic Review*, 64(3), 875-892.

Feng, Shuaizhang, Yingyao Hu, & Jiandong Sun.(2024). A Generalized Model of Misclassification Errors and Labor Force Dynamics. *Journal of Labor Economics*, forthcoming.

Cui, Xiaomeng, Bulat Gafarov, Dalia Ghanem, & Todd Kuffner. (2024). On Model Selection Criteria for Climate Change Impact Studies. *Journal of Econometrics*, 239(1), 105511.

Hu, Yingyao, Susanne Schennach, & **Ji-Liang Shiu**. (2022). Identification of Nonparametric Monotonic Regression Models with Continuous Nonclassical Measurement Errors. *Journal of Econometrics*, 226(2): 269-294.

Su, Liangjun, **Wuyi Wang**, & Xingbai Xu. (2023). Identifying Latent Group Structures in Spatial Dynamic Panels. *Journal of Econometrics*, 235(2), 1955-1980.

Agarwal, Sumit, Yajie Han, Yu Qin, & **Hongjia Zhu**. (2023). Disguised Pollution: Industrial Activities in the Dark. *Journal of Public Economics*, 223, 104904.

Cui, Xiaomeng, & Zheng Zhong. (2024). Climate Change, Cropland Adjustments, and Food Security: Evidence from China. *Journal of Development Economics*, 167, 103245.

Cui, Xiaomeng, & Qu Tang. (2024). Extreme Heat and Rural Household Adaptation: Evidence from Northeast China. *Journal of Development Economics*, 167, 103243.

Liu, Shouying, **Sen Ma**, Lijuan Yin, & Jiong Zhu. (2023). Land Titling, Human Capital Misallocation, and Agricultural Productivity in China. *Journal of Development Economics*, 103165.

Bo, Shiyu, Cong Liu, & Yan Zhou. (2022). Military Investment, Industrial Linkage, and the Rise of Clusters: Evidence from China, 1858-1937. *Journal of Development Economics*, 29: 103015.

Giles, John, Xin Meng, **Sen Xue**, & Guochang Zhao. (2021). Can Information Influence the Social Insurance Participation Decision of China's Rural Migrants? *Journal of Development Economics*, 150: 102645.

Cai, Shu. (2020). Migration under Liquidity Constraints: Evidence from Randomized Credit Access in China. *Journal of Development Economics*, 142: 102247.

Cai, Shu, & Klaus F. Zimmermann. (2024). Social Identity and Labor Market Outcomes of Internal Migrant Workers. *European Economic Review*, 163, 104676.

Lavy, Victor, Giulia Lotti, & **Zizhong Yan**. (2022). Empowering Mothers and Enhancing Early Childhood Investment: Effect on Adults Outcomes and Children Cognitive and Non-Cognitive Skills, *Journal of Human Resources*, May 2022, 57 (3) 821-867

Tang, Lixin. (2020). Entrepreneur Income Inequality, Aggregate Saving and the Gains from Trade. *Review of Economic Dynamics*, 38: 273-295.

Liu, Cong. (2020). The Effects of World War I on the Chinese Textile Industry: Was the World's Trouble China's Opportunity? *Journal of Economic History*, 80(1): 246-285.

Bo, Shiyu. (2020). Centralization and Regional Development: Evidence from a Political Hierarchy Reform to Create Cities in China. *Journal of Urban Economics*, 115: 103182.

Cui, Xiaomeng. (2020). Beyond Yield Response: Weather Shocks and Crop Abandonment. *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*, 7(5): 901-932.

Data

SURVEY DATA CENTER

Affiliated with IESR, the Survey Data Center (SDC) is a leading survey center in China. It uses state-of-the-art methods and technologies to collect several primary datasets. SDC has a team of approximately 20 members. There are four main departments, Survey Operations, Quality Control, Data Analysis, and IT Support, responsible for survey design, system development, fieldwork, data analysis, and report writing.

Currently, SDC undertakes several projects focusing on major socioeconomic issues in China, including (1) the development of left-behind children (Longitudinal Study of Children's Development in Mianzhu, LSCD), (2) rural development (Thousand-Village Survey in Guangdong), (3) the well-being of rural migrants (Rural-Urban Migration in China, RUMiC; Guangdong Migration Survey, GMS), (4) the development of manufacturing industries (Guangdong Manufacturing Firm Survey, GDMFS), and (5) Enterprise Survey for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in China (ESIEC).

SDC has cooperated with various Chinese government departments to work on joint projects, partnering with the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the National Health Commission, Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Guangdong Province, Guangdong Administration for Market Regulation, the Guangdong Academy of Social Sciences, and the Education Bureau of Mianzhu City. SDC has also joined the Survey Association with other universities (Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, Beijing Normal University, Zhejiang University, etc.) for the purpose of carrying out large-scale surveys such as the China Household Employment Survey. Cooperation with government and universities facilitates SDC's capacity to conduct large-scale surveys throughout China.



Longitudinal Study of Children's Development in Mianzhu (LSCD)

Large-scale rural-urban migration over the past decades has led to the so-called "left-behind children" phenomenon in China. It is estimated that over 6.97 million children were left behind in villages after their parents migrated to cities for work. The LSCD survey seeks to explore how to measure the traits, skills, and preferences that determine important life outcomes for children, understand the development of the cognitive and non-cognitive skills of left-behind children, and examine the effects of early childhood interventions. So far, the SDC has completed six waves of follow-up surveys, during which nearly 6,000 students and over 10,000 respondents were involved. In 2023, the LSCD survey started a new cohort of approximately 3,000 second-grade students. Professor James J. Heckman acts as an advisor to this survey and helps to develop its research design.



Thousand-Village Survey in Guangdong

This survey aims to document recent rural and agricultural development in Guangdong province and provide researchers with household-level data to evaluate the impact of the rural vitalization strategy implemented by the central government since 2018. The survey records detailed information about targeted poverty alleviation, rural governance, ecological environment, education, land acquisition, development of rural finance, and other aspects.

The baseline survey was conducted in 2018, covering 25 districts/ counties and around 3000 households. From 2019 to 2022, the SDC organized 4 waves of the follow-up survey and expanded the annual sample size to 30 districts/counties and over 3600 households. In 2023, the Thousand-Village Survey in Guangdong refined its target population, shifting its focus from households and villages to villages and towns, and successfully gathered data from 326 villages across 31 towns.



Rural-Urban Migration in China (RUMiC)

Due to its rapid industrialization and urbanization over the past three decades, China has experienced the largest rural-to-urban migration in history. Initiated by Prof. Xin Meng (Australian National University) in 2006, RUMiC aims to understand the institutional barriers that restrict rural-to-urban migration and how to improve rural migrants' living conditions. SDC jointly conducted RUMiC with the Australian National University in 2016 and has carried out this survey independently since 2017.

RUMiC is a longitudinal survey conducted yearly, collecting data about migrants' health, education, employment, social networks, household income and expenditure, housing conditions, and places of origin. The annual sample size consists of 5,000 migrant households living in 15 cities across 9 major provinces with the highest level of rural-to-urban migration (i.e., Guangzhou, Dongguan, Shenzhen, Zhengzhou, Luoyang, Chongqing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Wuxi, Hangzhou, Ningbo, Wuhan, Chengdu, Hefei and Bengbu).

In 2017, SDC successfully implemented the 10th wave of RUMiC. In this wave, a Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) system replaced the traditional paper-and-pencil method and significantly improved data quality. In 2018 and 2019, SDC interviewed all households participating in the 2016 or 2017 waves by phone using the Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system, successfully tracing 3,036 and 2,471 households, respectively.



Guangdong Migration Survey (GMS)

GMS is a longitudinal household survey that aims to better understand immigrant assimilation in the urban areas of Guangdong province by oversampling and comparing the households of migrants and local residents. GMS covers both rural-urban and urban-urban migrants. The survey pays particular attention to households in urban villages, which provide inexpensive housing to less-skilled migrants working in the service and labor-intensive sectors. Due to difficulties in constructing the sampling frame thus far, there has been no household survey containing sufficient observations of these migrants. To close this gap, the SDC took the lead in constructing the sampling frame in 2019.



Guangdong Manufacturing Firm Survey (GDMFS)

GDMFS is designed to measure the total factor productivity (TFP) of manufacturing firms in Guangdong province and examine the impact of product quality on TFP growth. This survey interviewed 599 and 424 manufacturing firms in 2017 and 2018, respectively, across 14 cities in Guangdong province. It records detailed information on financial management, quality control, human capital, production, industrial robots, informatization and e-commerce of each firm. Approximately 80 percent of the firms in the dataset can be linked to the Annual Survey of Industrial Enterprises (ASIE) of China's National Bureau of Statistics, one of China's most important databases of this kind.



Enterprise Survey for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in China (ESIEC)

In 2023, the SDC jointly conducted ESIEC with 8 domestic universities: Peking University, Harbin Institute of Technology (Shenzhen), Lanzhou University, Shanghai University of International Business and Economics, Shenyang Agricultural University, Zhejiang University, Zhejiang University of Finance and Economics, and Zhengzhou University. 148 interviewers in 15 teams was assigned to 15 districts/counties in 10 cities and collected data from more than 6,600 Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs). The interview completion rate of this wave has exceeded that of the baseline survey completed in 2018.

Think Tank

Center for Policy Research

The Center for Policy Research (CPR) explores a broad range of policy-relevant issues in China, including labor and employment, education of left-behind/migrant children, rural development, migration, industrial and housing policy.

Driven by the motto *Think globally, Act locally*, CPR builds partnerships with internationally renowned think tanks, provides microdata-based policy recommendations, organizes regular policy events, and collaborates with government institutions.

In 2019, CPR was ranked as one of China's 10 most influential social think tanks by the Center for Think Tank Studies, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (CTTS SASS), a leading Chinese think tank and research institution.

Policy Events

Brookings–Jinan China Microeconomic Policy Forum

Brookings–Jinan China Microeconomic Policy Forum in 2019 marked the beginning of IESR's cooperation with the Brookings Institution, a Washington DC-based nonprofit public policy organization recognized to be the most influential think tanks in the United States.

This initiative arose from a shared goal to facilitate closer ties between the institutions' think tanks and promote research collaboration on various microeconomic topics, including environmental, urban, public, labor, trade, industrial, and transportation economics. The annual event aims to generate essential implications for public policy in China by addressing issues concerning the Chinese economy.

The conferences in 2020 and 2021 were held online, with the former focusing on environmental and labor economics while the latter focusing on urban economics and transportation.



Policy Events

IESR-GLO Workshop

The Workshop is a flagship event of IESR organized in collaboration with GLO since 2018.

The Institute for Economic and Social Research (IESR) at Jinan University and the Global Labor Organization (GLO) jointly hosted the Sixth IESR-GLO Conference from October 26 to 27, 2023. This year's Workshop focuses on gender issues and domestic violence.



Policy Roundtable: Real Estate and Regional Development

During the launch and inaugural ceremony of IESR's Center for Real Estate and Regional Economics, the Policy Roundtable featured a discussion on the transformation of real estate and regional economic development in China. Yongheng Deng (UW-Madison), Hanming Fang (UPenn), Li Gan (TAMU and SWUFE), Xiaobo Zhang (PKU), and others discussed property rights and housing prices, reverse mortgages and income stability for the elderly, urbanization and real estate markets, and other germane topics in China.



Guangdong High-End Forum on Rural Revitalization

The 2023 Guangdong High-End Forum on Rural Revitalization was successfully held at Jinan University on October 28th. The Forum has been an annual event since 2021.

The 2023 forum was attended by over 100 participants, including scholars, government officials, and representatives from industries. In-depth discussions were held on significant topics, such as the effective convergence between rural revitalization and poverty alleviation, the development of featured agriculture, and the goal of common prosperity.



The National Forum on Children of Migrants

The National Forum on Children of Migrants is an annual tradition of IESR since 2016. The event provides an opportunity for participants to present the latest research findings related to children of migrants with the hope of providing corresponding suggestions and solutions.

The guests invited to the Forums include scholars from institutions such as Stanford University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Oxford, Peking University, Renmin University of China, Shanghai Jiaotong University, etc. alongside government officials from the Education Bureau of Mianzhu City and practitioners engaged in the relevant sectors.



Prof. Jialing Han (Visiting Professor of IESR) chaired the policy session



Participants of the 7th National Forum on Children of Migrants visiting the primary school in urban villages.

Rural Revitalization Seminar Series

Prestigious scholars with research focus on agriculture, rural areas, and rural people from institutions such as Peking University, Zhejiang University, and South China Agricultural University were invited to the seminar series to share their latest research. Over 25 seminars have been held so far.



Prof. Yu Sheng, Peking University



Prof. Hongdong Guo, Zhejiang University

Other Events

Workshop on Thousand-Village Survey in Guangdong
October 23, 2018
April 13, 2019
November 24, 2019
January 16, 2021

Workshop on Rural-Urban Migrants: New City Residents
November 15 - 16, 2019

The National Policy Forum on Children of Migrants
May 20 - 21, 2017
May 19 - 20, 2018
April 18 - 19, 2019
May 8 - 9, 2021
May 14, 2022
May 13, 2023

Policy Roundtable: Industry Panel on Real Estate Development, Urban Planning, and Financial Markets
June 13, 2018

Policy Roundtable: Housing Boom and Bust: What Have We Learnt from U.S. Experience?
June 9, 2017

Policy Forum on Real Estate and Urban Development
March 25, 2017

Policy Forum of Economics and Finance of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area
December 10, 2020

Release Conference of the Bluebook of Children of Migrants: Education and Development of Children of Migrant (2019-2020)
January 11, 2021

In addition to policy forums, roundtables, and workshops, CPR holds regular policy lectures with leading scholars and government officials discussing various policy issues.

Partnerships

Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China
China Population and Development Research Center
Institute of Population and Labor Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (IPLE-CASS)
The Brookings Institution
Global Labor Organization (GLO)
Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Guangdong Province

CPR Network

Over the years, the Center for Policy Research has collaborated with the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the National Bureau of Statistics, and provincial government units working in education, civil and rural affairs, and other areas. The Center has also rapidly extended its academic network, which now involves several research institutions and think tanks nationwide, including the National Academy of Development and Strategy (NADS, Renmin University of China), the National School of Development (NSD, Peking University), the Research Institute of Chinese Economy (RICE, Fudan University), and the Shanghai Institute of Finance and Law (SIFL). Internationally, CPR has developed ties with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and renowned think tanks in the U.S., such as Mathematica Policy Research and IMPAQ International.





IESR offers a B.S. in Economics and an M.S. in Applied Economics. In Fall 2019, IESR launched its first Ph.D. program in Economics.

Undergraduate

IESR students receive rigorous training in mathematics, statistics, and economics. Courses at the introductory and intermediate levels include real analysis, linear algebra, probability theory, microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics. IESR has a diverse faculty offering a full range of elective classes, including field classes on labor, development, urban, environmental, international, and financial economics, as well as advanced econometrics and data science.

Graduate

IESR offers microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics core classes at both Master's and Ph.D. levels. All graduate students take field classes and seminars covering frontier issues in economics research. Ph.D. students are expected to pass three preliminary exams by the end of their first year.

Students



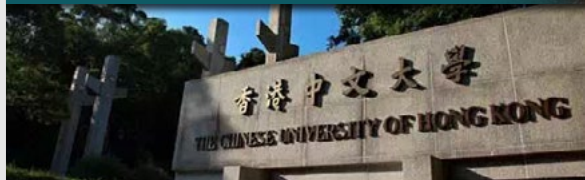
University of Wisconsin-Madison
(M.S. in Economics)



Northwestern University
(M.S. in Learning & Organizational Change)



University of Warwick
(MS. in Economics)



Chinese University of Hongkong
(M.S. in Economics)



Texas A&M University (M.S. in Financial
Econometrics and M.S. in Financial Economics)



Singapore Management University (M.S. in Financial
Economics and M.S. in Applied Economics)



The City University of New York
(M.S. in Real Estate)



University of Arizona
(M.S. in Economics)

Overseas Master's Programs

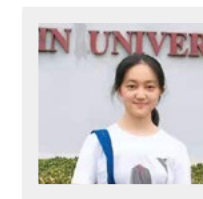
IESR has seventeen collaborative Master's programs partnered with seven overseas universities:

Study abroad

IESR provides students with opportunities to study abroad. Several IESR students spent a semester at overseas universities, including the University of Chicago, Columbia University, and Johns Hopkins University.

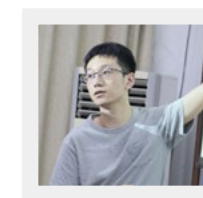
Student Quotes

"Economics is more like a way of thinking than simply studying relevant topics. It provides a unique and comprehensive analytical framework that can be used to shed light on problems. In reality, things are intricately intertwined. Economic research aims to reveal causal relationships, which is hard, even though we are in the era of abundant data and smart tools. Thus, finding a meaningful and interesting topic in the beginning keeps me motivated even when things get hard. I am always skeptical about the conclusions I have drawn and prepared to question them."



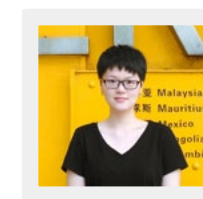
– Yu Yan, an undergraduate program alumnus, and currently a Ph.D. student in Finance at National University of Singapore. Her research project on the *Impact of Robots on Employment in China* won the second place in the National Challenge Cup in 2019

"To me, IESR serves as a solid international platform that gives me access to various scholars worldwide by regularly inviting them to our institute to share their latest research developments. It is an experience that I find enriching and significant to my research. I am also grateful to my advisor, Ji-Liang Shiu, who has been a great mentor over the past two years and opened the door to a world of research for me."



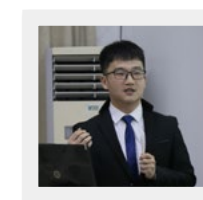
– Yujian Chen, a Master's program alumnus, and currently a Ph.D. student in Economics at Johns Hopkins University

"Great professors, rich academic resources, and generous Ph.D. funding are definitely the key reasons I have chosen IESR. After finally arriving here in April 2019, what caught my eye was the extraordinary academic environment and rigorous economic instruction. Here, every week, we have the opportunity to meet various scholars from China and abroad, which is crucial to understanding the frontiers of economics research."



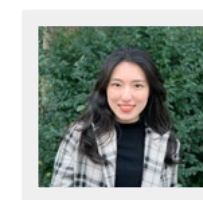
– Dongyi Yan, a second-year Ph.D. student

"The opportunity to meet outstanding economists and participate in real-life surveys in IESR drives me to make up my mind in taking academic research as my future career. "



– Kangkai Wang, a master's program alumnus, and currently a Ph.D. student at Guanghua School of Management at Peking University

"My supervisor and other teachers at IESR have provided me with great support. They always encourage me to experience more and discover what I am enthusiastic about."



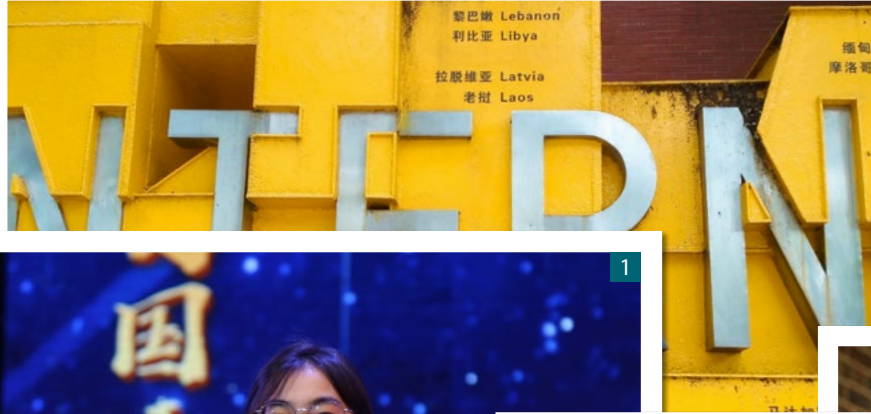
– Zhiwen Huang, an undergraduate program alumnus, and currently a master's student at Columbia University

Student Publications

Name	Supervisor	Title	Journal
Lanyue Hu (Undergraduate)	Wei Shi	Urban Consumption Dissimilarities and Subjective Wellbeing: Evidence from Mobile Big Data in China	Economics Letters
Yajie Han (Undergraduate)	Hongjia Zhu	Disguised Pollution: Industrial Activities in the Dark	Journal of Public Economics
Haoye Liao (Undergraduate)	Sen Ma	Does School Shutdown Increase Inequality in Academic Performance? Evidence from COVID-19 Pandemic in China	China Economic Review
Zheng Zhong (Master)	Shu Cai	Climate change, cropland adjustments, and food security: Evidence from China	Journal of Development Economics
Jingran Wei (Master)	Wei Shi	In the Crossfire: Multinational Companies and Consumer Boycotts	China Economic Review
Pei Yu (Master)	Wei Shi Yun Qiu	Key Links in Network Interactions: Assessing Route-Specific Travel Restrictions in China during the Covid-19 Pandemic	China Economic Review
Yan Zhou (Master)	Shiyu Bo Cong Liu	Military Investment and the Rise of Industrial Clusters: Evidence from China's Self-Strengthening Movement	Journal of Development Economics

Student Placements

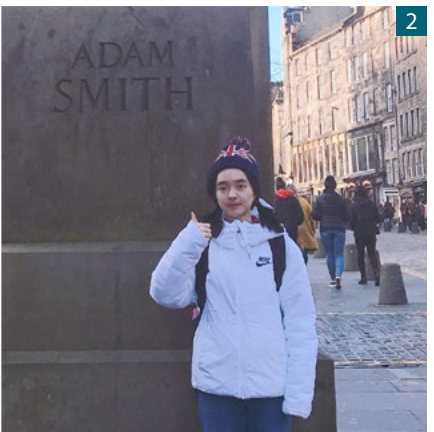
Area	University
USA	University of Pennsylvania
	Columbia University in the City of New York
	Cornell University
	University of Michigan
	Johns Hopkins University
	University of California, Los Angeles
	New York University
	Duke University
UK	University of Wisconsin–Madison
	The University of Edinburgh
	The University of Manchester
	The London School of Economics and Political Science
	The University of Warwick
Singapore	University of Glasgow
	National University of Singapore
Hong Kong SAR	Nanyang Technological University
	The University of Hong Kong
	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
	City University of Hong Kong
	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University



1. Yajie Han, an undergraduate program alumnus, and currently a Ph.D. student at the National University of Singapore. She won the Outstanding Student Award of Jinan University.

2. Yue Han, a senior undergraduate student, spent a year as a visiting student at University of Edinburgh.

3. Jiawei Lyu, a master's program alumnus, and currently a Ph.D. student at University of Pittsburgh. She visited the University of Chicago for three months under the Chicago-Jinan Joint Initiative.



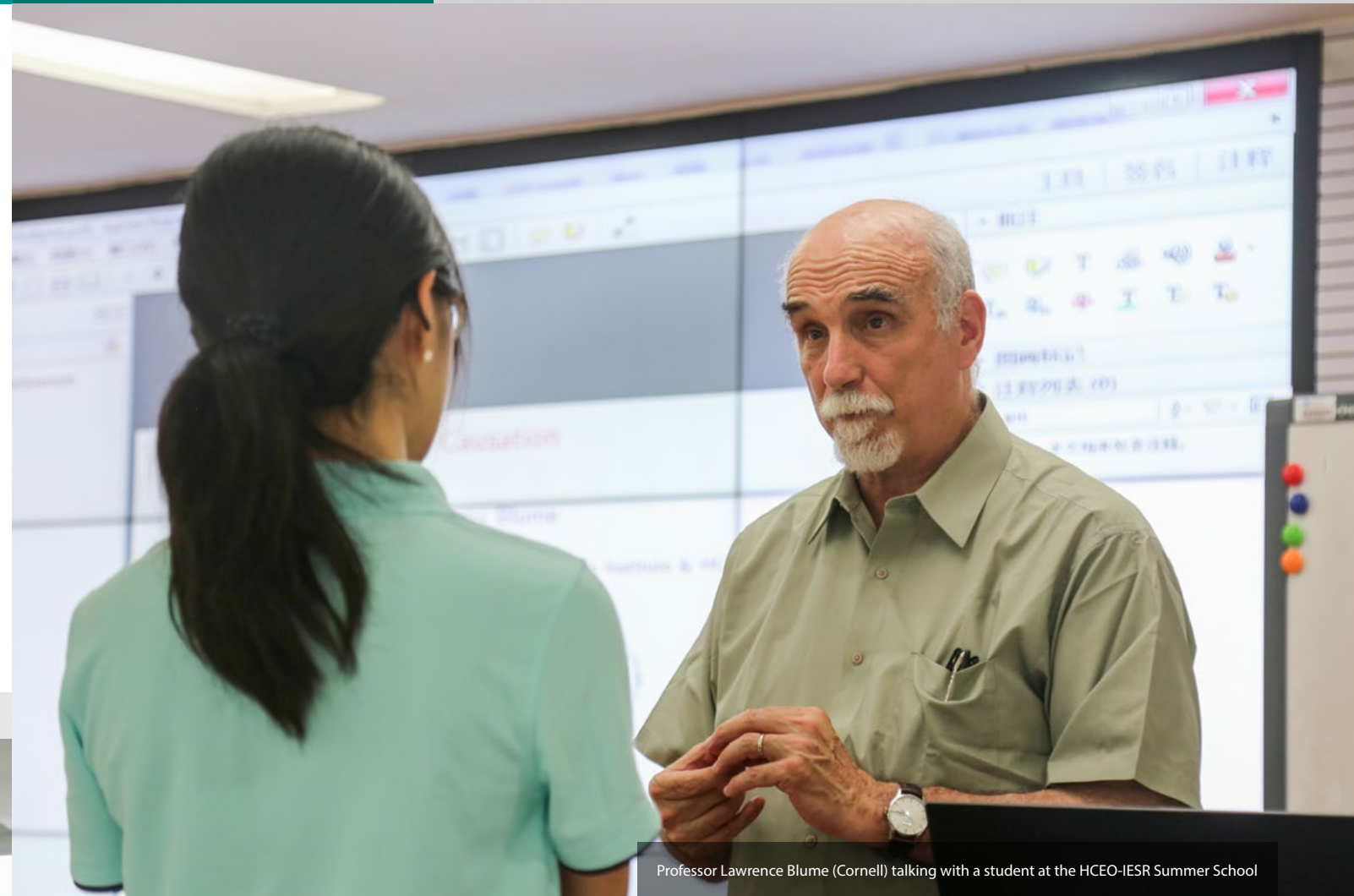
Training Programs

Nobel Prize Laureate Joshua Angrist's Workshop "Mastering 'Metrics: Empirical Strategies with Chinese Characteristics"

Hosted by IESR, the three-day workshop examined contemporary econometric methods and empirical modeling strategies with a focus on applications to economic policy. Joshua Angrist introduced key concepts and applications in his *Mostly Harmless Econometrics* and *Mastering 'Metrics* to nearly 200 workshop participants. He also commented on and suggested about several ongoing research projects presented by workshop participants during the three-day event.



Professor Joshua Angrist (MIT) teaching applied econometrics at IESR



Professor Lawrence Blume (Cornell) talking with a student at the HCEO-IESR Summer School

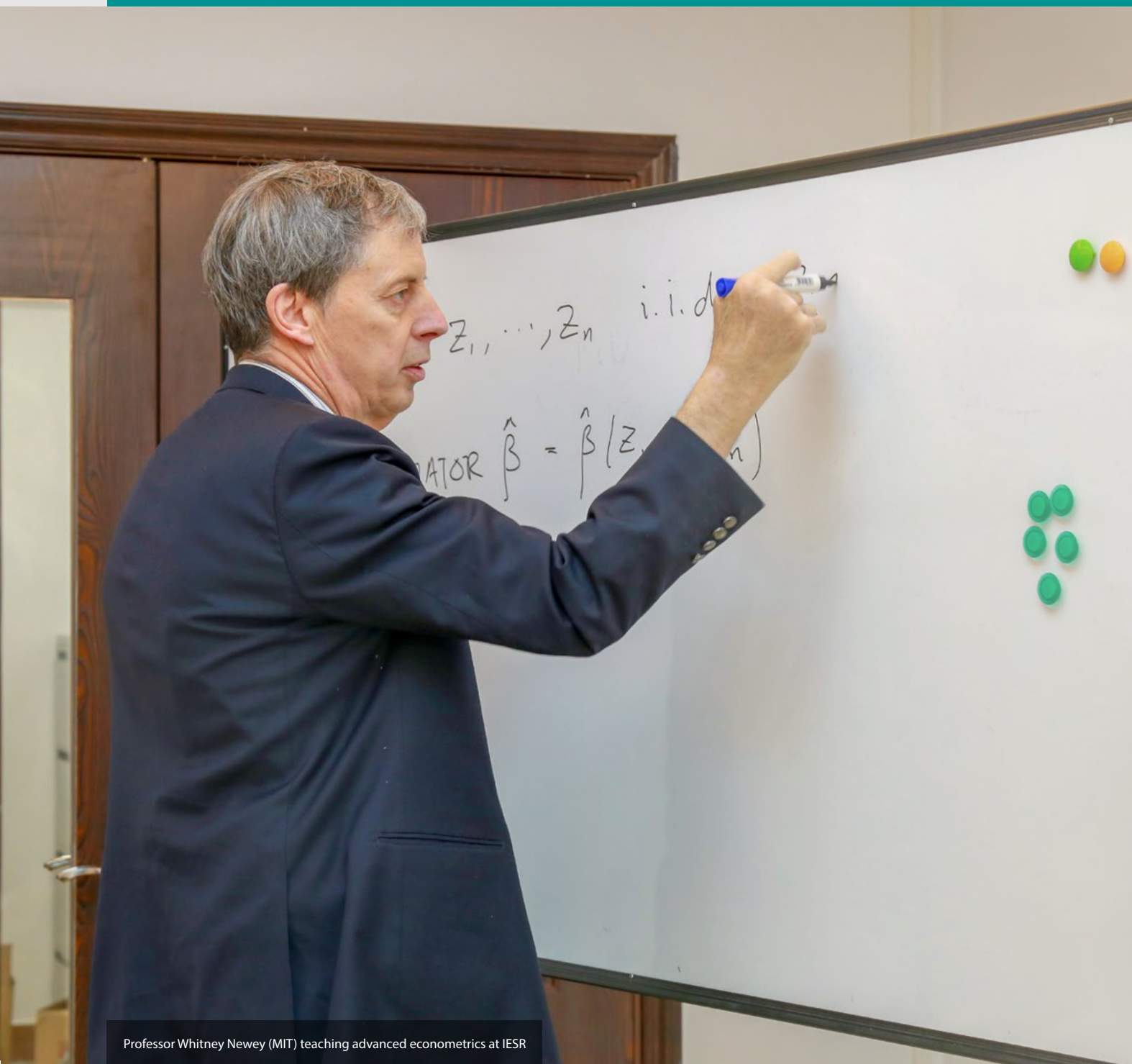
HCEO-IESR Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality

IESR and HCEO have co-organized the Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality and Best Paper Competition since 2016.

Students attended lectures on a variety of economics topics given by renowned academics, including Lawrence Blume (Cornell), Steven Durlauf (Chicago), Chao Fu (UW Madison), and Raji Jayaraman (Toronto).

The 2022 Summer School was held on 11-15 July with participants from over 25 universities worldwide.





Professor Whitney Newey (MIT) teaching advanced econometrics at IESR



Econometrics Camp at CEMP

In December 2019, the Center for Econometrics and Microdata Practice (CEMP) at IESR organized the first Econometrics Camp. Three leading econometricians, Whitney Newey (MIT), Bryan Graham (UC Berkeley), and Yingyao Hu (Johns Hopkins), gave lectures on topics including machine learning and nonparametrics, network and social interactions, and the econometrics of unobservables.

The Second IESR Econometrics Camp was held on Zoom from August 10 to August 14, 2020. The topic of this virtual econometrics summer camp was "Panel Data Econometrics and Its Applications." Manuel Arellano (CEMFI), Stéphane Bonhomme (University of Chicago), and Áureo de Paula (UCL) delivered lectures and held office hours during the camp.





Academic Cooperation

Keynote by Professor Vernon Henderson (LSE) at the 2018 AREUEA



Keynote by Professor Joseph Gyourko (UPenn) at the 2018 AREUEA

2018 AREUEA International Conference

The 2018 AREUEA International Conference attracted more than 160 international scholars to disseminate theoretical and empirical research in real estate economics, real estate finance, and urban economics, as well as to exchange ideas on applied decision-making in related areas. Conference highlights included keynote addresses by Vernon Henderson (LSE) and Joseph E. Gyourko (UPenn), a special panel of local real estate industry representatives moderated by Sheridan Titman (UT Austin), and two days of parallel sessions.





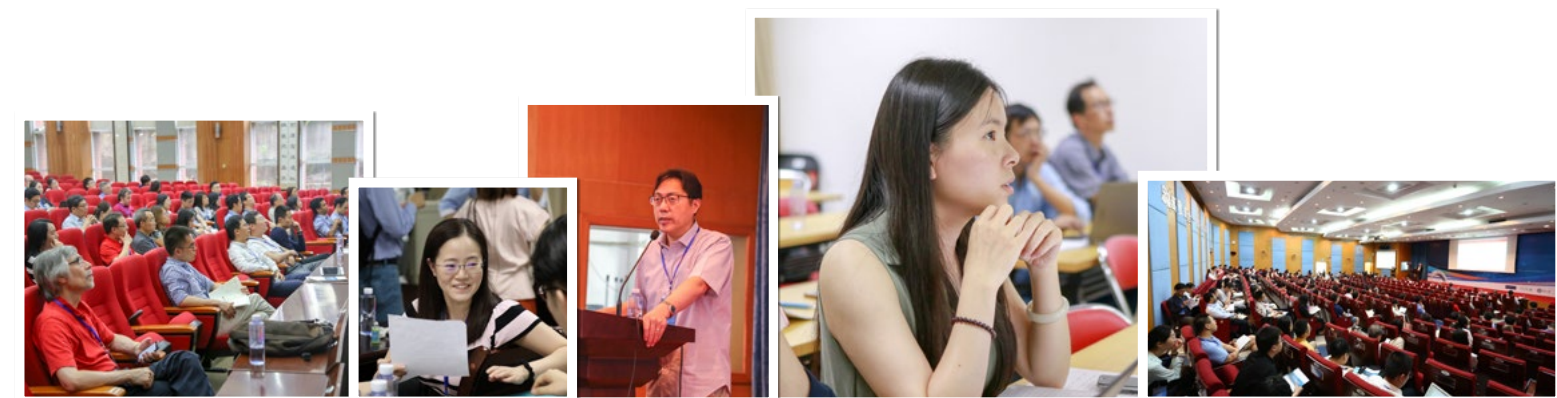
Keynote by Professor Ariel Pakes (Harvard) at the 2019 CMES



Keynote by Professor Samuel Kortum (Yale) at the 2019 CMES

2019 China Meeting of the Econometric Society

The three-day 2019 China Meeting of the Econometric Society brought together nearly 300 scholars from more than 100 organizations across the globe, spurring the advancement of economic theory in its relation to statistics and mathematics and facilitating academic exchanges between scholars in China and other countries. The 2019 China Meeting featured 67 parallel sessions with over 260 papers presented and 11 keynote speeches, delivered by James J. Heckman (Chicago), Junsen Zhang (CUHK), Tong Li (Vanderbilt), Xiaohong Chen (Yale), Whitney Newey (MIT), Enrique Sentana (CEMFI), Christian Dustmann (UCL), Jess Benhabib (NYU), Jianjun Miao (BU), Ariel Pakes (Harvard), and Samuel Kortum (Yale).





Professor James Heckman giving a keynote speech at the 2018 Chicago-Jinan Joint Initiative Workshop

Chicago–Jinan Joint Initiative on the Study of Human Development

IESR and the Center for the Economics of Human Development (CEHD), led by Professor James Heckman, launched the Chicago-Jinan Joint Initiative on the Study of Human Development. The Initiative serves as a research home for both IESR and CEHD students, faculty, and visiting scholars from guest institutions. The Initiative marked a formalized partnership that began in 2016 and led to regular collaborative events and projects such as the Asian Family in Transition Conference on Migration, the HCEO-IESR Summer School, and the Longitudinal Study of Children's Development in Mianzhu, among others.



IESR Associate Professor Cong Liu introducing economic history data at the Workshop

Workshop on Big Data Analytics in Business and Economic Research

In December 2019, IESR, the Centre for Business Analytics and the Digital Economy (CBADE), and the Department of Economics at Hong Kong Baptist University co-hosted the Workshop on Big Data Analytics in Business and Economic Research. Scholars from academia, industry, and the government introduced data products on rural households, firms and employees, patents, customs records, trade, academic publishing, transportation, economic history, pollution and weather, etc. The workshop facilitated future data sharing and research cooperation among researchers.



Participants of the Workshop in 2019

Workshop on Firms in Emerging Economies

Workshop on Firms in Emerging Economies has been an annual event since 2017. The workshop invited scholars to present their industrial organization, development economics, and generate discussions on data and policies on industrial development in a globalized economy and across various emerging markets.



Keynote by Professor Fernando Broner (CREI) at the 2018 Conference



Keynote by Professor Neng Wang (Columbia University) at the 2019 Conference

HKUST–Jinan Joint Conference on Macroeconomics

To promote academic exchange in the Greater Bay Area, HKUST Department of Economics and IESR co-hosted the HKUST–Jinan Joint Conference on Macroeconomics in 2018, 2019, and 2021. This annual conference has attracted economists from the United States, Europe, and China to discuss critical macroeconomic issues.



Professor Jonathan Guryan (Northwestern) presenting at the 2017 International Symposium



IESR Assistant Professor Bin Xie commenting in a parallel session

International Symposium on Contemporary Labor Economics

The International Symposium on Contemporary Labor Economics is jointly organized by the Jinan University (IESR and SOE), Xiamen University (Wang Yanan Institute for Studies in Economics), and the Chinese University of Hong Kong (Department of Economics). This Symposium aims to facilitate the exchange of ideas on labor economics between Chinese and international scholars. This annual event was held in Guangzhou in 2017 and 2020, Xiamen in 2018, and Shenzhen in 2019.



Keynote by Professor Alberto Salvo (National University of Singapore) at the Workshop



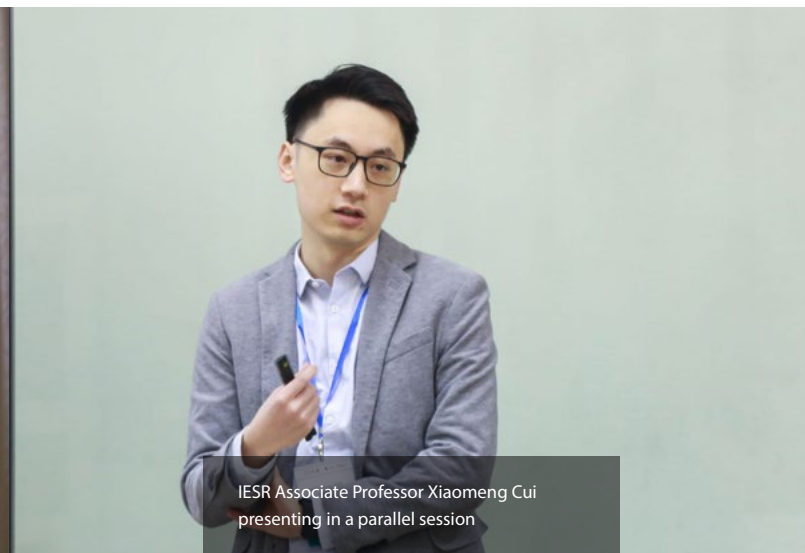
Speech by Professor Shanjun Li (Cornell University) at the Workshop

IESR Workshop on Environmental and Resource Economics

IESR held the first Workshop on Environmental and Resource Economics in December 2023. It creates an effective communication platform for scholars to share research outcomes and further facilitate collaboration. Scholars from Yale, Stanford, Cornell, Chicago, UCSD, UMich, NCSU, Hamburg, NUS, HKUST, Peking, Tsinghua, SJTU, Nanjing, Jinan, and other institutions participated in the workshop.



IESR Associate Professor Yunho Cho chairing the parallel session at the Conference



IESR Associate Professor Xiaomeng Cui presenting in a parallel session

Jinan-SMU Conference on Urban and Regional Economics

Jinan-SMU Conference on Urban and Regional Economics is co-organized by Jinan University (IESR) and Singapore Management University (School of Economics). Since 2021, this annual conference has attracted scholars in different fields of economics to participate in discussions on urban development, green cities, housing price fluctuations, housing policy, etc.



Professor Christopher Pissarides (LSE) lecturing at Jinan University

Public Lectures

IESR regularly invites world-renowned scholars to deliver public lectures to faculty and students. Recently invited speakers include Christopher Pissarides (LSE), James Heckman (Chicago), Joshua Angrist (MIT), Robert Moffitt (JHU), Alan Krueger (Princeton), Edward Glaeser (Harvard), Greg Kaplan (Chicago), Michael Oppenheimer (Princeton), Chang-Tai Hsieh (Chicago), Scott Rozelle (Stanford), Peter Kuhn (UCSB), and Hanming Fang (UPenn).





Xin Meng (Australian National University)



Loren Brandt (University of Toronto)



Vincent Yao (Georgia State)



Elie Tamer (Harvard)



Lars Lefgren (Brigham Young)



Sumit Agarwal (NUS)

Regular Seminars

IESR had more than 400 regular seminars over the past few years. Invited speakers from all over the world presented their working papers and work in progress on a wide range of topics. Coordinated by field leaders, regular seminars are broadly categorized into eight fields: labor, development, econometrics, industrial organization and trade, urban and transportation, environmental and resource, macroeconomics and finance, and others.

Short Courses

In addition to the training programs, IESR hosts a series of short courses on frontier topics for junior faculty and graduate students. Recently invited instructors include Elie Tamer (Harvard), Tong Li (Vanderbilt), Sumit Agarwal (NUS), Vincent Yao (Georgia State), Andrew Chesher (UCL), Russell Cooper (the European University Institute), and Lars Lefgren (Brigham Young).



Qian Wang (Commissioner, National Health Commission)



Maigeng Zhou (Professor, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention)



Jian Chen (Founder and CEO, CreditWise Technology)



Ruoyun Zhao (Senior Director, TalkingData)

Policy and Data Seminars

IESR invites researchers and government officials to discuss trending policy issues in China. Recent policy seminars cover topics on poverty alleviation, energy sector transformation, industrial policies, metropolitan development, housing markets, etc. IESR also organizes a special seminar series, IESR+, that brings researchers from industry and government to talk about novel data. Recent IESR+ seminars showcased online search data, individual-based transportation data, and micro-level administrative data on health outcomes.

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