

Fan Wang

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Positions

- Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Houston, 2022–
- Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Houston, 2015–2022

Affiliations

- Member, Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Working Group, University of Chicago, 2017–

Education

- Ph.D. in Economics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2015.
- B.A. in Economics and History, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, 2008.

Publications

- Fan Wang, Esteban Puentes, Jere R. Behrman, and Flavio Cunha. **2024**. “You are What Your Parents Expect: Height and Local Reference Points.” **Journal of Econometrics** 243 (July): 105269.
DOI: [10.1016/j.jeconom.2021.09.020](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeconom.2021.09.020), [online appendix](#)
Pre-print: [pdf](#), [abstract](#)
- Fan Wang. **2022**. “An Empirical Equilibrium Model of Formal and Informal Credit Markets in Developing Countries.” **Review of Economic Dynamics** 46 (October): 224–43.
DOI: [10.1016/j.red.2021.09.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.red.2021.09.001), [online appendix](#)
Pre-print: [pdf](#), [abstract](#)
- Xiaoying Liu, Jere Behrman, Emily Hannum, Fan Wang and Qingguo Zhao. **2022**. “Same Environment, Stratified Impacts? Air Pollution, Extreme Temperatures, and Birth Weight in South China.” **Social Science Research** 105 (July): 102691.
DOI: [10.1016/j.ssresearch.2021.102691](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2021.102691), [online appendix](#)
Pre-print: [pdf](#), [abstract](#)
- Vegard M. Nygaard, Bent E. Sørensen, and Fan Wang. **2022**. “Optimal Allocations to Heterogeneous Agents with an Application to Stimulus Checks.” **Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control** 138 (May): 104352.
DOI: [10.1016/j.jedc.2022.104352](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jedc.2022.104352), [online appendix](#)
Pre-print: [pdf](#), [abstract](#), [website](#), [code](#)
Note: subsumes and replaces [Wang \(2020\)](#) and [Nygaard, Sørensen, and Wang \(2020\)](#)

- Emily Hannum, *Fan Wang*. **2022**. “Fewer, Better Pathways for All? Intersectional Impacts of Rural School Consolidation in China’s Minority Regions.” **World Development** 151 (March): 105734.
DOI: [10.1016/j.worlddev.2021.105734](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2021.105734), [online appendix](#)
Pre-print: [pdf](#), [abstract](#)
- Emily Hannum, Xiaoying Liu, and *Fan Wang*. **2021**. “Estimating the Effects of Educational System Consolidation: The Case of China’s Rural School Closure Initiative.” **Economic Development and Cultural Change** 70 (1): 485–528.
DOI: [10.1086/711654](https://doi.org/10.1086/711654), [online appendix](#)
Pre-print: [pdf](#), [abstract](#)
- Esteban Puentes, *Fan Wang*, Jere R. Behrman, Flavio Cunha, John Hoddinott, John A. Maluccio, Linda S. Adair, Judith Borja, Reynaldo Martorell, and Aryeh D. Stein. **2016**. “Early Life Height and Weight Production Functions with Endogenous Energy and Protein Inputs.” **Economics & Human Biology** 22 (September): 65–81.
DOI: [10.1016/j.ehb.2016.03.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2016.03.002), [online appendix](#)
Pre-print: [pdf](#), [abstract](#)

Current Research

Working Papers

- "From Population Growth to Demographic Scarcity: Emerging Challenges to Global Primary Education Provision in the Twenty-first Century," [October 2025 \(PDF\)](#), Emily Hannum, Jeonghyeok Kim, and Fan Wang. Revise and Resubmit at *Population and Development Review*.
- "Are Natural Disasters Disastrous for Education? Evidence from Seven Asian Countries," [October 2025 \(PDF\)](#), Yujie Zhang, Jere R. Behrman, Emily Hannum, Minhaj Mahmud, and Fan Wang. Revise and Resubmit at *Economics of Education Review*.
- "Timing Lumpy Investments with Informal Bridge Loans and Clunky Formal Loans: Evidence from Thailand," [May 2025 \(PDF\)](#), Anil Jain, Robert M. Townsend, and Fan Wang. Revise and Resubmit at *Review of Financial Studies*.
- "The Distribution of the Gender Wage Gap: An Equilibrium Model," [August 2023 \(PDF\)](#), Sonia R. Bhalotra, Manuel Fernandez, and Fan Wang. Revise and Resubmit at *Journal of Political Economy*.

Grants and Contracts

- **Harris County Department of Economic Equity and Opportunity**
Title: “EarlyREACH Child Care Center Program Evaluation”
Date: 2024–2026
Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Elizabeth Gregory)
- **National Science Foundation**
Title: “Climate risk, pollution, and childhood inequalities in low- and middle-income countries”
Award number: [2230615](#)
Program: [Partnerships for International Research and Education \(PIRE\)](#)
Date: 2023–2025
Amount: \$1,485,510
Role: Co-Principal Investigator (PI: Emily Hannum, Co-PI: Jere Behrman)

- **Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange**
 Title: Scholar Grant
 Award number: GS040-A-18
 Date: 2019–2022
 Amount: \$12,000
 Role: Principal Investigator
- **National Science Foundation**
 Title: “Prenatal Exposure to Pollution and Effects on Early Childhood Outcomes”
 Award number: [1756738](#)
 Date: 2018–2023
 Amount: \$319,999
 Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Emily Hannum)
- **University of Houston**
 Title: Faculty Start-up Research Grant
 Date: 2015–2021
 Amount: \$50,000

Presentations

- (2022) Southwestern University of Finance and Economics (*Economics, virtual*); Warwick University (CWIP, *virtual*); Structural Transform and Economic Growth Theme 2 Workshop (*virtual*); Southern Economic Association.
- (2021) Research on East Asian Demography and Inequality (*Princeton, Virtual*); MiSoC Gender Pay Gap Research Workshop (*University of Essex, Virtual*); China Meeting of the Econometric Society (*Shanghai Tech University, Virtual*); Asia Meeting of the Econometric Society (*Curtin University, Virtual*); 5th IZA/World Bank/WIDER Jobs and Development Conference (*Virtual*); Southern Economic Association; Inaugural ACM Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (*Poster*); The Causes and Consequences of Depopulation (*Wittgenstein Centre for Demography, Poster*).
- (2020) Econometric Society World Congress (*Virtual*).
- (2019) Annual Meeting of Society of Labor Economists; Annual Meeting of Population Association of America.
- (2018) International Association for Applied Econometrics (*UQAM and UdeM*); Barcelona GSE Summer Forum (Children) (*Barcelona Graduate School of Economics*); China Meeting of Econometrics Society (*Fudan University*); Center on Contemporary China at Princeton University; 3rd Annual Empirical Microeconomics Conference (*Arizona State University*); Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association (*Poster*).
- (2017) STATA Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference (*University of Texas at Austin*); Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society (*Chinese University of Hong Kong*); Conference on Human Capital and Financial Frictions (*HCEO and Georgetown University*).
- (2016) 8th International Symposium on Human Capital and Labor Markets (*China Center for Human Capital and Labor Market Research, Central University of Finance and Economics*); 21st Texas Econometrics Camp (*Texas A&M University*).

- (2015) STATA Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference (*Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas*); University of British Columbia; Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México; Royal Holloway, University of London; University College London; Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.

Teaching

University of Houston

- *Human Capital* (Ph.D., Instructor)
Spring 2018, Fall 2020, Fall 2022
- *Microeconomic Theory I* (Ph.D., Instructor)
Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024
- *Introduction to Mathematical Economics* (Undergraduate, Instructor)
Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2024
- *Introduction to Statistics and Data Analysis* (Undergraduate, Instructor)
Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Fall 2019, Spring 2021, Spring 2022

University of Pennsylvania

- *International Finance* (Undergraduate, Teaching Assistant)
Fall 2012
- *Introduction to Macroeconomics* (Undergraduate, Recitation Instructor)
Spring 2011, Spring 2012
- *Introduction to Micro and Macro Economics for Business Students* (Undergraduate, Recitation Instructor)
Fall 2010, Fall 2011
- *Introduction to Econometrics* (Undergraduate, Instructor)
Summer 2011

Advising

Ph.D. Committee Member

- Nabila Biju (Ph.D., U of Houston 2023, Berea College, Assistant Professor)
- Oscar Gálvez-Soriano (Ph.D., U of Houston 2023, University of Chicago, Assistant Instructional Professor)
- Kriti Khanna (Ph.D., U of Houston 2021, Plaksha University, Assistant Professor)
- Daniel Jacobs (Ph.D., U of Houston 2020, The Vanguard Group, Researcher)
- Michael Walz (Ph.D., U of Houston 2020, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Economist)
- Sakshi Jain (Ph.D., U of Houston 2018, Brandeis University, Lecturer)

Professional Activities

Refereeing

- Served on the Program Committee for *Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization 2022*
- Served as Referee for *American Economic Review, China Economic Review, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic Letters, Economic Journal, International Economic Review, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of European Economic Association, Journal of Human Capital, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Population Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Singapore Economic Review, World Development*.

Departmental Service

- Member, PhD Admission Committee, University of Houston, 2022
- Member, Junior Faculty Recruiting Committee, University of Houston, 2017

College Service

- Member, CLASS Graduate Scholarship Selection Committee, University of Houston, 2020

Membership

- Econometric Society (2016–), American Economic Association (2014–)

Research Experience

- Research Assistant, GCC–Human Capital First 1000 Days, Philadelphia, PA, 2013–2014.
- Research Analyst, Department of Economics, MIT, Cambridge, MA, 2008–2009.
- Short–Term Consultant, the World Bank (ECA), Chicago, IL, 2007.
- Research Assistant, National Opinion Research Center, Chicago, IL, 2007.