

ZHEJIAN WANG

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University of Delaware, Lerner College of Business and Economics

FIELDS & RESEARCH INTERESTS

Fields: Development Economics; Economics of Education (Human Capital); Industrial Organization (Digital Markets).

EDUCATION

- **University of Delaware, Lerner College of Business and Economics** 2020 – 2026 (*expected*)
Ph.D. in Economics Newark, DE, USA
 - **Dissertation:** Essays in Digital Economics
- **University of Southern California** 2016
M.A. in Economics Los Angeles, CA, USA
- **Southwestern University of Finance and Economics** 2014
B.S. in Management China

RESEARCH

Job Market Paper

- **Restricting Video Games in China: Effects on Time Use, Educational Achievement, and Health**
Sole-authored. *Revise and resubmit, Journal of Development Economics.*
Abstract: Screen time regulation for minors is among the most widely adopted digital policies globally, yet credible causal evidence on its effects remains scarce. I study China's 2021 regulation, which virtually eliminated weekday online gaming for minors and limited play to one hour on weekends/holidays—the strictest intervention of its kind. Using nationally representative CFPS data (2020, 2022) in a difference-in-differences design, I find sharp declines in minors' gaming and total Internet use but no robust improvements in study effort, academic performance, or physical health, with suggestive declines in mental well-being. A complementary Regression Kink design using city mock-exam data around the age-18 cutoff likewise shows no exam effects. The null results on human capital despite effective compliance challenge the assumptions underpinning screen time regulation worldwide and inform ongoing policy debates in the US, EU, and elsewhere.

Working Papers

- **Digital Regulation and Market Responses: Evidence from Chinese Mobile Apps**
Sole-authored.
- **When Success Becomes Salient: Local Role Models and Schooling Decisions**
with Ruoming Zhang. *Under peer review at Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization.*
- **Higher-Education Expansion and Upper-Secondary Choice**
with Yiqun Tong, Ruoming Zhang. *Under peer review at Economic Modelling.*
- **From Seats to Status: China's 1999 Higher-Education Expansion and Urban–Rural Occupational Mobility**
with Yiqun Tong and Ruoming Zhang.
- **Premarital Property Rights and Marriage Timing: Evidence from Urban China**
with Ruoming Zhang. *Under peer review at Review of Economics of the Household.*
- **Less Paperwork, More Marriages: Registration Frictions and Marriage Outcomes**
with Ruoming Zhang.

Work in Progress

- **Generative AI as a Product Feature: Causal Evidence from iOS Apps**
- **Legal Clarification and Judicial Consistency: Evidence from China**

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **University of Delaware** Fall 2022 – Spring 2023
Instructor Newark, DE, USA
 - Introduction to Microeconomics (ECON 101), Fall 2022
 - Introduction to Macroeconomics (ECON 103), Spring 2023
- **University of Delaware** Fall 2021 – Spring 2025
Teaching Assistant Newark, DE, USA
 - Graduate: Microeconomic Theory I–II (ECON 811, 813). Undergraduate: Data Analysis for Economics (ECON 306), Quantitative Micro Theory (ECON 301), Urban Economics (ECON 393), Health Policy (ECON 490), Management Information Systems (MISY 261).

FELLOWSHIPS & RESEARCH FUNDING

- Graduate Fellowship, University of Delaware 2020 – 2025
- Third-Year Summer Research Stipend, University of Delaware Summer 2023
- Research Assistant to Prof. David Stockman, University of Delaware Spring 2024

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

- Caitong Securities Co., Ltd. — Internet Industry Research Division 2017 – 2020
Assistant Analyst (2017–2018); Analyst (2019–2020) Shanghai, China
 - Covered digital platform firms and technology regulation as a sell-side equity analyst; this experience motivated my academic research on digital economics and market responses to regulation.
 - CFA charterholder.

SKILLS & LANGUAGES

Software: Stata, R, Python, $\LaTeX$, SQL. **Languages:** Mandarin Chinese (native); English (fluent).

PRESENTATIONS

University of Delaware Economics Seminar Series (Dec. 2025); University of Delaware ESGA Conference (Oct. 2025).

REFERENCES

1. **Jeremy Tobacman**
University of Delaware
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2. **George R. Parsons**
University of Delaware
Email: gparsons@udel.edu
3. **Emily L. Battaglia**
University of Delaware
Email: emilylb@udel.edu