

Gaoqian Xu

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Last updated: September 2025

EDUCATION

Ph.D Candidate. in Economics

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

2020-2026

Committee: Yanqin Fan (Chair), Alex Luedke, Jing Tao, Quan Wen.

M.A. in Economics

Duke University, Durham, NC

2018-2020

B.A. in Accounting

Tianjin University of Finance and Economics, Tianjin, China

2014-2018

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Causal Inference; Policy Learning; Social Network; Optimal Transport

PUBLICATION

1. “[Quantifying Distributional Model Risk in Marginal Problems via Optimal Transport](#),” with Yanqin Fan and Hyeonseok Park, Forthcoming at **Mathematics of Operations Research**, 2025

WORKING PAPERS

1. “[Policy Learning with \$\alpha\$ -Expected Welfare](#),” with Yanqin Fan and Yuan Qi. Revise & Resubmit at **Journal of Econometrics**.

2. “[Policy Learning under Unobserved Confounding: A Robust and Efficient Approach](#),” with Zequn Jin, Xi Zheng and Yahong Zhou. Submitted.

3. “[Networks as Control Functions: Nonparametric Identification and Estimation of Partial Effects](#).”

WORK IN PROGRESS

1. “Quantile Treatment Effects and Bootstrap Inference under Network Interference,” with Zequn Jin and Zixin Yang.

TEACHING

Department of Economics, University of Washington

Seattle, WA

Instructor

- Econ 300 Intermediate Microeconomics
- Econ 301 Intermediate Macroeconomics

Winter 2025

Fall 2024

Teaching Assistant (Graduate Level)

- Econ 582 Econometrics III
- Econ 581 Econometrics II

Spring 2024

Winter 2024

Teaching Assistant (Undergraduate Level)

- Econ 201 Introduction to Macroeconomics Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Winter 2023

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Department of Economics, University of Washington Seattle, WA
Research Assistant for Prof. Yanqin Fan Summer 2023, Fall 2022, Summer 2022

Department of Economics, Duke University Durham, NC
Research Assistant for Prof. Federico Bugni Spring 2020, Summer 2019

SEMINAR AND CONFERENCES

- 2025 Shanghai Econometrics Workshop (SUFE, Shanghai)
- 2024 Institute for Advanced Economic Research (Dalian), Optimal Transport and Distributional Robustness Workshop (Banff), INFORMS Annual Meeting (Seattle), IAAE Annual Conference (Xiamen)
- 2023 KI+Scale MoDL Retreat (UW, Seattle)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Henry T. Buechel Memorial Fellowship 2025
- Duke University M.A. Merit Scholar 2018

OTHER INFORMATION

Languages Chinese (Native), English (Fluent)
Skills Python, R, SQL, Java, Stata, MATLAB