

Simon Li

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Rochester, U.S.A.

EDUCATION

- **University of Rochester, Ph.D. in Economics** Sep 2021 - May 2027 (expected)
Field: Applied Microeconomics; Causal Inference Rochester, U.S.A.
- **The Chinese University of Hong Kong, M.Phil. and B.S. in Economics** Sep 2014 - Jun 2021
First Class Honors Hong Kong

SKILLS HIGHLIGHT

Experimentation & Causal Inference: A/B test; CUPED; Causal forest; Difference-in-differences; Matching
Machine Learning: Logistic regression; Random forest; XGBoost; Double machine learning
Programming Languages: Python (Pandas, NumPy, Scikit-learn); SQL; R; Stata

WORKING EXPERIENCE

- **Project Lead, Field Experiment on Education and Social Attitudes** Jul 2024 - May 2026
Tools: Randomized controlled trial; Survey construction; Double machine learning Rochester, U.S.A.
 - Led design and execution of a randomized controlled trial with 1,000+ students in Kyrgyzstan.
 - Managed field operations across four schools, coordinating local partners and enumerator teams.
 - Constructed baseline and endline surveys; Selected high-dimensional controls using double lasso.
 - Estimated treatment effects using ANCOVA and DID; Implemented IPW to correct differential attrition.
- **Research Assistant, Spillover Effects of Cash Transfer Programs** Jan 2025 - Jul 2025
Tools: Meta-analysis; Panel data regressions; Heterogeneity analysis Rochester, U.S.A.
 - Built a dataset from 20+ studies to quantify program impacts and enable cross-study comparison.
 - Delivered short- and long-term impact estimates by harmonizing inconsistent metrics across studies.
 - Identified spillover effects concentrated among poorer households, informing program targeting design.
- **Research Assistant, RCT Program Evaluation** Jan 2023 - Apr 2023
Tools: LASSO; Principal Component Analysis Toronto, Canada
 - Assisted in an unconditional cash transfer program involving 3,000 low-income individuals in the U.S.
 - Analyzed RCT data; Treatment increased spending by \$310/month (67% on non-durables).
 - Constructed individual's financial health index (by PCA); Treatment improved index scores by 5%.
 - Applied LASSO to select a subset of pre-treatment covariates and ran seemingly unrelated regressions.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- **Mobile Game A/B Testing with Cookie Cats** Jan 2025 - Mar 2025
Tools: A/B test; Bootstrap; Power analysis Rochester, U.S.A.
 - Designed an A/B test evaluating how moving the first progression gate impacted player retention rate.
 - Conducted power analysis to validate sample size and computed bootstrapped confidence intervals.
 - Built end-to-end analysis pipeline in Python, from data cleaning through statistical inference.
 - Quantified a 0.8 pp drop in 7-day retention at 99% confidence, recommending against the gate change.
- **The Causal Effects of Higher Education Expansion on Vocational Education** Sep 2023 - Jun 2024
Tools: Difference-in-differences; Propensity score matching Rochester, U.S.A.
 - Examined the causal effects of China's HEE on the income of secondary vocational education graduates.
 - Used propensity score matching; Constructed a matched dataset with 7,902 samples for regressions.
 - Designed and estimated DID regressions; Found the wage gaps closed by 10.3% after HEE intervention.
 - Conducted parallel trend and placebo tests; The results are robust to changes in intervention timing.
- **Productivity Growth in China's Manufacturing Sector** Jan 2023 - Jul 2023
Tools: Large-scale data cleaning; Productivity estimation; Data validation Rochester, U.S.A.
 - Wrote programs to construct a panel of Chinese above-scale manufacturing firms from 1998 to 2013.
 - Implemented a firm-matching algorithm; The fraction of linked firms increased from 84.7% to 92.2%.
 - Constructed real capital stock series; The benchmark estimates implied an increase of 3.1% per year.
 - Cross-validated firm-level output against tax records; Official statistics overstated revenue growth by 2x.