

Zheng Wang

*Department of Economics
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Education

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| 4th year PhD grant (Tutor: Yann Bramoullé) AMSE (France) | <i>2021-2022</i> |
| PhD in Economics (Supervisors: Andrea Ichino and Sule Alan) European University Institute, Department of Economics (Italy) | <i>2017-2023</i> |
| MSc in Econometrics and Mathematical Economics London School of Economics, Department of Economics (UK) | <i>2013-2014</i> |
| BSc International Finance (First Degree) & Applied Mathematics (Second Degree) Beihang University (China) | <i>2009-2013</i> |

Working and Teaching Experience

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| Teaching Assistant PhD level compulsory course, Econometrics III, Prof. Michéle Belot, EUI | <i>2019</i> |
| PhD level compulsory course, Econometrics I, Prof. Andrea Ichino, EUI | <i>2019</i> |
| Research Assistant Prof. Andrea Ichino, European University Institute | <i>2018-2019</i> |
| Junior Economist Research Department, International Labor Organization (Geneva) | <i>2016-2017</i> |
| Research Assistant Research Department, International Labor Organization (Geneva) | <i>2015-2016</i> |
| Data Analyst International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Geneva) | <i>2015</i> |

Other Training

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| Summer School on The Economics of Networks AMSE (France) | <i>2021</i> |
| Summer School on The Econometrics of Peer Effects and Social Interactions Prof. Bryan Graham & Prof. Aureo de Paula (Germany) | <i>2019</i> |

Research Interests

Networks, Causality, Peer Effect, Applied Microeconomics related to Education, Gender and Inequality

Work in progress

Causal Identification and Estimation of Network Peer Effects

Endogeneity of network formation is a major obstacle for the causal identification of peer effect in non-experimental studies. In this paper I first propose a causal framework to analyze contextual peer effect where novel peer effects are defined in terms of causal estimands instead of the usual linear-in-means regression coefficients. Then I develop a new identification strategy of propensity score matching for endogenously formed networks. The causal peer effect estimators proposed in this paper are

straightforward to implement with existing statistical packages. Finally, with AddHealth data, I apply the methodology to study the causal effect of having second generation high school friends, those who have at least one parent with college education, on one's own probability of going on to pursue a college degree. Preliminary analysis shows that having more second generation friends is beneficial to first generation students, even after controlling for friends' ability.

Competitive Peer Effect – the Case of Duolingo

In this paper I study how language learner's own learning effort is affected by the learning effort exerted by their randomly assigned peers as well as the characteristics of these peers. I study this through Duolingo's language learning platform.

The Effect of Familiarity on Language Test Performance and its Implications on Test Fairness

Joint with Dalila Figueiredo (EUI)

In this project we study the fairness of a standardized English test used by many universities around the world for admission purposes, IELTS. In particular, we focus on the fairness concerns arising from topic familiarity when answering the writing task. In our experiment, we assign reading materials to participants before they are asked to complete an IELTS style writing task. This allows us to evaluate whether topic familiarity causally affects test performance. Then we will look at the relationship between topic familiarity and participant cultural and socio-economic background to investigate the fairness of IELTS.

Computer Skills

R, Matlab, Stata, Python

Languages

Mandarin (Native), English (Fluent), French (Basic), Italian (Basic)