Zheng Wang

Department of Economics
European University Institute
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Education

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

Working and Teaching Experience

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

Other Training

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

Research Interests

Networks, Causality, Peer Effect, Applied Econometrics, and Topics related to Education and Labor

Work in progress

The linking effect: causal identification and estimation of the effect of peer relationship

In this paper I propose a new causal framework to study the effect of peer relationships. Moreover, an identification strategy based on unconfoundedness is provided for peer networks that are endogenously formed. Thanks to the nature of network data, confounders can be inferred from the adjacency matrix, and therefore the identification does not require the assumption that all confounders have been observed. The identification strategy suggests the use of

propensity score based estimators, which means estimation can be easily and flexibly done with existing statistical packages. Finally, an empirical application on the effect of friendship is analysed.

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.

Ongoing experiment on standardized language test

Joint with Dalila Figueiredo (EUI)

Computer Skills

R, Matlab, Python, Stata

Languages

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