

SHENG QU

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EDUCATION

University of Colorado Boulder Boulder, CO	May 2026 (expected)
Ph.D. in Economics	
Tufts University Medford, MA	May 2020
M.S. in Economics	
University of Wisconsin Madison Madison, WI	August 2018
B.A. in Economics	

FIELDS

Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Education Economics, Public Policy, Development Economics

PUBLICATION

The Long-Run Impacts of Mentoring Underrepresented Minority Groups in Economics, May 2025, *AEA Papers and Proceedings*. Joint with Francisca Antman, Bruce Weinberg, and Trevon Logan.

JOB MARKET PAPER

International Undergraduate Student Inflows and College Pricing Strategies

Abstract: This paper examines how growth in international undergraduate enrollment affects both sticker-price and net-price tuition at U.S. PhD-granting institutions. Leveraging the relaxation of U.S. visa policy and the appreciation of the Chinese yuan as natural experiments that drove a rise in Chinese undergraduate enrollment beginning in 2005, I use institution-level panel data from 2000 to 2019 and employ difference-in-differences and instrumental variable approaches to identify the causal effects of rising international undergraduate enrollment on tuition outcomes. I find that increases in international undergraduate enrollment raise out-of-state sticker-price tuition at public PhD-granting universities but reduce it at private PhD-granting institutions. Private PhD-granting institutions with greater exposure to international undergraduate enrollment growth also experience reductions in average net-price tuition, while public PhD-granting institutions show no significant change. These divergent responses highlight differing institutional priorities: private universities appear to prioritize school quality and student subsidization, while public institutions emphasize in-state access and budget stability. The findings suggest that domestic students at private universities benefit more from international undergraduate student growth than their counterparts at public institutions.

WORKING PAPER

College Admission, Mismatch, and Labor Market Outcomes

Abstract: This paper estimates the effects of the Chinese college admission reform on students' labor market outcomes. The reform made changes to reduce the mismatch between student ability and college quality in 26 out of 34 province-level administrative divisions in China. Using an individual-level dataset that contains detailed information on students' labor market outcomes, this study shows that the college admission reform had no impact on the log yearly labor income of affected students.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Linguistic Analysis of Gender Bias in Mainstream Popular Music (1965-2015)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record , University of Colorado Boulder	Fall 2024
<i>Principles of Microeconomics</i>	
Teaching Assistant , University of Colorado Boulder	Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2025
<i>Principles of Microeconomics</i>	

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Decision Scientist Intern

January 2025 – May 2025

The Walt Disney Company

- Developed LLM-based system to generate book subject codes from book content, achieving 86% performance improvement across 9,000+ pages through prompt engineering and retrieval reranking.
- Analyzed viewership data for 216 movies over 5 years, imputed 5,800+ missing values, and built a ridge regression model to predict opening box office revenue.

Research Assistant for Professor Francisca Antman

January 2023 - January 2025

University of Colorado Boulder

- Led a two-person team to build an automated pipeline in Python that digitized, parsed, and cleaned unstructured text data from 26,209 career profiles.
- Estimated causal impact of mentorship on career outcomes using linear regressions, finding participants were 11.8% more likely to secure tenure-track positions.

PRESENTATIONS

University of Colorado Applied Economics Seminar

2025

University of Colorado Applied Economics Seminar

2024

AWARDS

Graduate Award for Public Policy Research (*2), CU Boulder

2023, 2025

Bacon Family Economics Graduate Scholarship, CU Boulder

2024

SKILLS AND PERSONAL INFORMATION

Languages: Chinese (Native), English (Fluent)

Programming: Python, Stata, R, $\LaTeX$, MATLAB

Citizenship: Chinese Citizen, Canadian Permanent Resident

REFERENCES

Advisor

Professor Francisca Antman

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University of Colorado Boulder

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Committee member

Professor Brian Cadena

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