

Zihang Li — Curriculum Vitae

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Education

Auburn University (AACSB Accredited)

Ph.D. in Applied Economics

Auburn, AL
Aug. 2021–Aug. 2026 (expected)

Auburn University (AACSB Accredited)

M.S. in Applied Economics

Auburn, AL
Aug. 2021–Aug. 2024

Konkuk University

M.A. in Economics

Seoul, South Korea
Aug. 2018–Feb. 2021

Harbin University of Science and Technology

B.M. in Accounting

Harbin, China
Aug. 2014–Aug. 2018

Specialization

Applied Microeconomics; Industrial Organization; Health Economics; Financial Economics

Teaching Interests

Undergraduate: Principles of Microeconomics; Principles of Macroeconomics; Econometrics; Business Statistics; Industrial Organization; Health Economics; Big Data Analysis; Corporate Finance; Financial Markets and Institutions; Managerial Finance; Investments

Graduate: Applied Microeconometrics; Econometrics; Health Economics; Business Statistics; Industrial Organization; Financial Economics; Risk Analysis

Teaching Experience

Auburn University (AACSB Accredited)

Independent Instructor

Auburn, AL
2023–present

- ECON 2020: Principles of Microeconomics (Fall 2023; Spring 2025; Summer 2026(Planned))
 - Teaching evaluation improved from 4.37/6.0 to 5.33/6.0
- ECON 2030: Principles of Macroeconomics (Spring 2024; Spring 2026)
 - Teaching evaluation: 5.21/6.0
- Full course responsibility: curriculum design, syllabus development, assessment, and grading aligned with AACSB standards

Auburn University (AACSB Accredited)

Module Instructor

Auburn, AL
2025–present

- ECON 5700/6700: Health Economics (Spring 2025)
 - Led instruction on Demand and Supply of Health Insurance and Organization of the Health Care Market for undergraduate and graduate sections
 - Led session on data and statistical methods, including empirical applications in health economics

Auburn University (AACSB Accredited)

Auburn, AL

Teaching Assistant

2021–present

- ECON 2020: Principles of Microeconomics (Fall 2021; Spring 2022; Fall 2022; Summer 2025)
- ECON 2030: Principles of Macroeconomics (Fall 2021; Spring 2022; Fall 2022)
- ECON 4600: Econometrics (Fall 2024; Fall 2025)
 - TA evaluation improved from 5.39/6.0 (Fall 2024) to 5.86/6.0 (Fall 2025)
 - Hold independent recitation sessions weekly, teaching R programming, regression analysis, and quantitative methods applicable to economics and financial econometrics
 - Individually guide each student through the research process: formulating research questions, identifying datasets, choosing research designs, implementing data work, and debugging code

Konkuk University

Seoul, South Korea

Teaching Assistant

2018–2020

- Assisted with Environmental Economics, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, and History of Economic Thought
- Prepared course materials and graded assignments for 200+ students

Working Papers

“Permanent Continuous Eligibility and Psychiatric Medication Channeling for Children at the Medicaid–CHIP Threshold”

Job Market Paper; preparing for submission to Health Economics.

First regression-discontinuity evidence on treatment-composition effects at the Medicaid–CHIP income threshold using the National Survey of Children’s Health (2016–2024); identifies a +29 pp psychiatric medication spike at the threshold without any change in uninsurance, concentrated in anxiety and depression and absent for isolated ADHD, traced across three policy regimes (pre-pandemic, FFCRA enrollment freeze, federal continuous-eligibility mandate). Software: Stata 18.

“Market Authorization Holder (MAH) Pilot Program and Innovation Investment in China’s Pharmaceutical Industry”

First and corresponding author; with Tannista Banerjee, Aditi Sengupta, and Shan He; preparing for submission to International Journal of Industrial Organization.

Difference-in-differences, triple-difference, and Poisson DID on Chinese pharmaceutical patent data (2015–2021); identifies significant positive effects of the 2016 MAH deregulation on patent authorizations, backward citations, and patent claims for non-Traditional Chinese Medicine companies, with no significant effects for TCM firms.

Work in Progress

“Reducing Litigation Risk and Pharmaceutical Firms’ Investment Decisions: Evidence from China’s Drug Patent Linkage System”

“Food Deserts and Health Outcomes: Evidence from HCUP, 2012–2022” with Ruchika Rungta

“Classifying Product versus Process Innovation in Chinese Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Patents: A Novel PatentBERT–LLM Methodology”

Grant Experience

Submitted (decision pending)

NSF HBCU-EiR

Oct. 2025

- **Solicitation:** NSF 23-598 (HBCU-EiR)
- **Proposal ID:** 2602827
- **Proposal Title:** Economic Evaluation of AI-Powered Virtual Reality Wellness Platforms: Enhancing Accessibility, Engagement, and Cost-Effectiveness in Mental Health Support
- **PI:** Dr. Sanket Kanekar [Alabama State University]
- **Co-PIs:** Dr. Kimberly B. Garza [Auburn University]; Dr. Travis C. Evans [Auburn University]
- **Role:** Other Authorized User (Research.gov); Graduate Research Lead (internal)
- **Selected contributions:**
 - Led proposal writing, budget development (\$1,261,433), and grant administration coordination
 - Co-developed the randomized controlled trial (RCT) study design and implementation plan
 - Co-designed and led components of the economic evaluation plan (cost-effectiveness and budget impact analyses)
 - Independently built the minimum viable product to support the submission, including the VR environment and the AI (LLM) training pipeline

Service and Administration

Summer 2026: Course (Re)Design Program, Biggio Center, Auburn University

2025: Grant coordination and budget planning, NSF HBCU-EiR proposal with Alabama State University (\$1.26M)

2024–present: Independent recitation instructor and student research mentor, ECON 4600 Econometrics, Auburn University

Summer 2024: Course (Re)Design Program, Biggio Center, Auburn University

2023–present: Curriculum development and course coordination, ECON 2020/2030, Auburn University

Fall 2019: Graduate Mentor, Research for Undergraduate Study (RUS), Konkuk University

Conference and Seminar Experience

July. 2026: Presenter (forthcoming), Western Economic Association International Meeting, Denver, CO

June. 2026: Presenter (forthcoming), American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) Conference, Minneapolis, MN

Mar. 2026: Attendee, ACS-CAN Cancer Research Symposium, Montgomery, AL

Mar. 2026: Attendee, Montgomery.AI, Montgomery, AL

Nov. 2025: Presenter, Southern Economic Association Meeting, Tampa, FL

Oct. 2025: Contestant, Magic City Classic Business Pitch Competition, Birmingham, AL

June. 2025: Presenter, Western Economic Association International Meeting, San Francisco, CA

May. 2025: Attendee, XR Summit 2025, Auburn, AL

Nov. 2024: Presenter, Southern Economic Association Meeting, Washington, DC

Oct. 2024: Presenter, Three-Minute Thesis (3MT), Auburn, AL

Sept. 2024: Presenter, Outreach and Engaged Scholarship Symposium, Auburn, AL

Nov. 2023: Attendee, Southern Economic Association Meeting, New Orleans, LA

Grants, Honors, and Awards

Aug. 2021–present: Graduate Fellowship, Department of Economics, Auburn University

Aug. 2018–Feb. 2021: Graduate Tuition Scholarship, Konkuk University

July. 2019–Dec. 2019: Research for Undergraduate Study (RUS) Grant, Konkuk University

Professional Memberships

American Economic Association (AEA)

Southern Economic Association (SEA)

Western Economic Association International (WEAI)

American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon)

Auburn University Extended Reality Faculty Learning Community (XR FLC)

Skills

Software: R; Stata; Python; \LaTeX ; GAUSS (basic); MATLAB (basic); EViews (basic); JMulTi (basic); Blender (basic); QGIS (basic)

Languages: Korean (native); Chinese (native); English (fluent)

References

Tannista Banerjee (*Chair*)

Professor of Economics

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