# YUAN AN

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## EDUCATION

**Carnegie Mellon University** *2022 - Present*
Ph.D., Information Systems & Management
Committee: Alessandro Acquisti, Andrew Garin, Brian K. Kovak, Lowell Taylor

## RESEARCH FIELDS

Digital Economics, Labor Economics, Public Economics

## WORKING PAPERS

**"Delivering Higher Pay? The Impacts of a Task-Level Pay Standard in the Gig Economy"**
(with Andrew Garin and Brian Kovak). 2025. *Submitted.*

- *2024 Carnegie Mellon University Block Center Research Grant*

**Abstract:** How does a task-level minimum pay requirement for gig workers affect their earnings and employment? We study this question in the context of a January 2024 law in Seattle that establishes a per-task minimum pay standard for app-based delivery workers. Drawing on novel cross-platform, trip-level gig activity data, we compare earnings and employment trajectories around the implementation of the law for workers who were doing delivery work in Seattle before the reform against workers who had been active in other regions of Washington State. We find that the minimum pay law raised delivery pay per task, though the increases in base pay per task were partially offset by a substantial reduction in average tips, a major component of delivery pay. At the same time, the policy led to a reduction in the number of tasks completed by highly attached incumbent drivers (but not an increase in exit from delivery work), completely offsetting increased pay per task and leading to zero effect on monthly earnings. We find evidence that drivers experienced more unpaid idle time and longer distances driven between tasks, but find no evidence that drivers reduced their total time working on delivery apps and only limited evidence of switching from delivery to ride-hailing work. Using a simple model of the labor market for platform delivery drivers, we show that our evidence is consistent with free entry of drivers into the delivery market driving down the task-finding rate until expected earnings return to their pre-reform level. These findings highlight the challenges of raising pay in spot markets for tasks where there is free entry of workers.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

**"Welfare Effects of Protecting Online Privacy"**
(with Alessandro Acquisti and Ananya Sen)

- *2024 Knight Foundation Research Grant*
- *2024 Marketing Science Institute Research Grant*

## CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

**2026:** *Conferences:* AEA/ASSA Annual Meeting (Philadelphia)

**2025:** *Conferences:* Platform Research Symposium (Boston University), Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Annual Meeting (Seattle)
*Seminars:* Carnegie Mellon, CMU-Pitt Applied Micro Workshop

## GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

**Carnegie Mellon University Conference Funds** *2025*
*Carnegie Mellon University: Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs*

**Knight Fellowship** *2024*
*John S. and James L. Knight Foundation*
*Carnegie Mellon University: The Center for Informed Democracy and Social Cyber-Security*

**Knight Foundation Research Grant** *2024*
*John S. and James L. Knight Foundation*

**Marketing Science Institute Research Grant** *2024*
*Marketing Science Institute*

**Block Center Research Grant** *2024*
*Carnegie Mellon University Block Center for Technology and Society*

**Heinz College PhD Fellowship** *2022*
*Carnegie Mellon University*

## TEACHING

**Carnegie Mellon University**
**Teaching Assistant**
Microeconomics (Ph.D.), Prof. Brian K. Kovak *Fall 2023*
Applied Econometrics (Masters), Prof. Andrew Garin *Fall 2025*

## SELECTED COURSEWORK

| | |
|---|---|
| Microeconomics | Empirical Industrial Organization |
| Econometrics I (causal inference) | Behavioral Economics |
| Econometrics II (structural econometrics) | Structural Models in Labor Economics |
| Experimental Design | Structural Models in Marketing |
| Bayesian Statistics | Human & Algorithmic Bias |
| Machine Learning | Human-AI Interaction |

## PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE

Python, Stata, R, MATLAB, SQL, Spark, ArcGIS, Amazon Web Services (AWS), Git, LaTeX

## REFERENCE

**Alessandro Acquisti**
Professor of Information Technology
MIT Sloan School of Management

**Andrew Garin**
Associate Professor of Economics
Heinz College, Carnegie Mellon University
Research Fellow, NBER
Research Affiliate, IZA

**Brian K. Kovak**
Professor of Economics and Public Policy
Heinz College, Carnegie Mellon University
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**Lowell Taylor**
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*This Version: November 2025*