Qinyi Ouyang

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Health Economics, Industrial Organization, Public Economics
Research interests: Pharmaceutical pricing, bargaining, and healthcare market structure in China.

EDUCATION

University of Virginia Charlottesville, VA
Ph.D. Student, Economics *August 2024 – Present*
Fields: Health Economics, Industrial Organization, Public Economics

University of Chicago Chicago, IL
Master of Public Policy *September 2019 – June 2021*

Renmin University of China Beijing, China
Bachelor of Economics *September 2015 – June 2019*

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- **NRDL Inclusion and Pharmaceutical Innovation in China.**
  Examines how first negotiated inclusion of a drug on China's National Reimbursement Drug List affects subsequent clinical trial activity by competing firms in the same therapeutic class. Distinguishes a signaling channel, through which inclusion raises expected reimbursement prospects for related compounds in development, from a competitive channel, through which the included firm gains first-mover access to the reimbursed market. Uses a staggered event-study design around first class-level NRDL inclusion over 2017–2025, combining annual NRDL catalogs with Clinical Trial Registry records over 2013–2026. *Summer paper, in progress.*
- **Dual-Track Pharmaceutical Pricing in China: Bargaining, Outside Options, and Welfare.**
  Structural model of Nash-in-Nash bargaining applied to China's national reimbursement drug list (NRDL) and commercial insurance track. Examines how the 2025 dual-track reform alters firms' outside options and equilibrium pricing incentives. *In progress.*
- **Anticipating the Academic Cutoff: Household Educational Investment and Financial Behavior under a High-Stakes Tracking Regime in China.**
  Examines how the anticipated probability of vocational placement via the *Zhongkao* exam shapes household educational expenditure and precautionary saving before placement is realized. Uses the China Family Panel Studies merged with a province-year matriculation panel to exploit cross-provincial variation in academic seat availability. *In progress.*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Virginia Charlottesville, VA
Teaching Assistant, ECON 7720: Econometrics II *Spring 2026*
Teaching Assistant, ECON 3020: Intermediate Macroeconomics *Fall 2025*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Southern California Los Angeles, CA

Gateway to Global Aging Data, Center for Economic and Social Research

Project Administrator *February 2023 – July 2024*

Built and harmonized research-ready microdata on adults over age fifty from the international family of HRS-type longitudinal aging surveys, and supported empirical analysis on health, social policy, and aging across countries.

Project Specialist *November 2021 – February 2023*

Collected and documented social insurance and old-age benefit rules across countries, including own, spousal, and survivor old-age benefits, long-term care, and public health insurance, and produced descriptive analyses and research reports.

Harvard University Cambridge, MA

Part-time Research Assistant (Professor Nathan Nunn) *November 2021 – June 2022*

Supported Professor Nunn's research program on African anthropology through data collection, literature reviews, and quantitative research assistance.

University of Chicago, Booth School of Business Chicago, IL

Part-time Research Assistant (Professor Richard Hornbeck) *November 2021 – February 2022*

Supported two projects on American economic history: (1) the financial wealth of African Americans after slavery and its intergenerational impacts, using evidence from the collapse of the Freedman's Bank; and (2) steam power and manufacturing productivity growth in the United States. Responsibilities included linking individuals and establishments across Census waves.

SKILLS

Programming: R, Stata, Python, LaTeX

Languages: Mandarin Chinese (native), English (fluent)

Last updated: May 31, 2026

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Statement of Research Interests and Motivation

NBER Mentoring Program on Aging and Health Economics Research

My research asks how public reimbursement institutions shape the supply of medical innovation and access to it, with a focus on pharmaceutical markets in China. The question bears especially on the diseases of later life. Aging populations drive the spending that pushes governments to negotiate drug prices, and the drugs under negotiation are disproportionately those that treat the chronic and late-life conditions of older patients. China offers an interesting setting because the state sets reimbursement eligibility and negotiates prices directly, yet firms still choose what to develop under uncertainty. The same forces are now visible in the United States, where Medicare has begun negotiating the prices of drugs used heavily by older adults.

My main project asks how the negotiated inclusion of a drug on China's National Reimbursement Drug List affects subsequent innovation by competing firms in the same therapeutic class. The national catalog is the central instrument through which the state sets reimbursement eligibility and negotiates prices, so inclusion is a large and observable shock to the expected return on related compounds. Inclusion may raise expected reimbursement prospects for those compounds and encourage follow-on development, or it may foreclose part of the market for rivals and push their effort toward adjacent therapeutic spaces.

In addition to research in health economics, I have been interested in the economics of aging as well. From 2021 to 2024 I worked at the Gateway to Global Aging Data at the University of Southern California, an NIA-funded platform that harmonizes the major longitudinal surveys of adults over age fifty across various countries. I built research-ready microdata from these studies and documented the social insurance rules governing old-age, spousal, and survivor benefits and public health coverage. That work left me familiar with both the institutions and the harmonized data on which empirical research in aging depends. As I move from coursework into independent research, I want to connect my work on pharmaceutical markets to questions about insurance design for older populations and the distributional consequences of how healthcare prices are set.

I have finished my second year at the University of Virginia and have not yet formed a dissertation committee, though Professors Timothy Layton and Lee Lockwood are my second-year paper readers. The program would reach me as I turn a single project into a dissertation agenda. I would value feedback on which mechanisms in the current work are most compelling to health economists, and on how to position it within aging and health economics rather than only within industrial organization or public economics. Practical guidance would also help, on validating administrative and regulatory data, choosing credible comparison groups, and interpreting event-study estimates when policy adoption is selective. The chance to test early ideas with senior scholars and other students, and to see the data and methods that researchers in aging and health rely on, would strengthen the foundation I bring to the next stage of my training.