

# Zhiyao (Yao) Ma

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🌐 yaoeconomics.weebly.com/

## Education

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### University of California, Davis

Ph.D. (Agricultural and Resource Economics)

*Expected 2026*

Fields of Interest: Commodity and Financial Markets, Development, and Poverty Dynamics

Committee: TBA

### University of Chicago

M.A. (Economics)

*2020-2021*

Thesis: *Implicitly Transferring Development Rights: Land Coupon Policy's Effects on Spatial Income Inequality*

Advisors: Alexander Torgovitsky & Srinivasan Vasudevan

### University of California, Santa Barbara

B.S. (Mathematical Sciences) & B.A. (Economics) with Distinction

**High Honor**

*2016-2020*

Thesis: *Structural Transformation and Natural Disasters: Evidence from the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake*

Advisors: Peter Kuhn & Heather Royer

## Working Papers

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### "Long-term Impact of School Starting Age"

*With Haoyuan Chen, Peng Zhang, and Le Kang*

### "Futures Price Information and Farmer's Bargaining Power"

### "Optimal Investment in Storage Infrastructure and Farmer's Welfare"

## Other Articles

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### "Who Loves Apples the Most (other than Isaac Newton)?"

*With Zhiran Qin*

## Teaching Experience

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- Economic Development (UC Davis, 2022) with Mayada Baydas
- Principles of Finance (UC Davis, 2021) with John Constantine
- Operations Research & Management Science (UC Davis, 2021) with John Constantine

## Non-Academic Experience

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### China Siyuan Foundation, "Inclusive Finance for the Underrepresented Farmers" Project

*Director of Executive Committee*

*2022-Present*

### Seagulls Society

*Founder*

*2020-Present*

### China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation

*Research and Development Assistant*

*Summer 2020*

### ShenwanHongyuan Securities (Hong Kong)

*Research Intern*

*Summer 2019*

### IBM Global: Corporate Service Corporation

*Consulting Intern*

*Summer 2017*

## Grants and Fellowships

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<b>Non-Resident Tuition Fellowship</b> <i>UC Davis</i>	2021-22
<b>Maroon Scholars Award (\$32000)</b> <i>University of Chicago</i>	2020
<b>Cathay Bank Scholarship (\$6000)</b> <i>Cathay Bank, Los Angeles</i>	2020
<b>Gretler Research Fellowship (\$4000)</b> <i>UC Santa Barbara</i>	2018-2019
<b>Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Grant (\$750)</b> <i>UC Santa Barbara</i>	2018-2019
<b>K. Wardy Scholarship (\$2000)</b> <i>UC Santa Barbara</i>	2018

## Technical Strengths

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- **Programming Languages:** STATA, Python, and R
- **Others:** L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Matlab, Web Crawler