

# Yang Xun

## Curriculum Vitae

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CEMFI  
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<b>Education</b>	<i>Ph.D.</i> in Economics Advisor: Monica Martinez-Bravo CEMFI, Madrid, Spain	2020 - July 2024 (Expected)
	<i>M.A.</i> in Economics and Finance CEMFI, Madrid, Spain	2018 - 2020
	<i>B.Sc.</i> in Mathematics and Applied Mathematics <i>B.Ec.</i> in Finance Renmin University of China, Beijing, China	2014 - 2018 2014 - 2018
	International Exchange University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA	2016 - 2017

**Research Fields**    Development Economics, Political Economy

### Working Papers

#### **Corruption and Talent Allocation (Job Market Paper)**

*Abstract:* Talent is a key input in the delivery of public services, yet less is known about what affects the supply of talent for the public sector. This paper studies the role of political corruption in shifting talent allocation across public and private sector careers. I exploit a randomized anti-corruption audit program in Brazil together with comprehensive micro-data on educational and labor market outcomes of college students. Using a generalized difference-in-difference research design, I find that high-ability students in audited municipalities are less likely to choose majors tailored toward public sector careers, such as business administration and law. Moreover, tracking students to the labor market demonstrates that audits also lead to a lower share of high-ability students working as civil servants. Finally, I provide suggestive evidence that the effects of audits on talent allocation can be driven by the perception of lower rent-seeking returns and higher reputation costs. Taken together, these findings highlight an understudied negative consequence of corruption on the economy: the distortion of talent allocation toward rent-seeking in the public sector.

### Selected Work in Progress

#### **Economic Integration and Political Dispute Across the Taiwan Strait** (with Chi Man Cheung and Tzu-Ting Yang)

*Abstract:* Does economic integration foster political affinity, or can it trigger a backlash? We approach this question by investigating an unconventional type of “China shock” in the context of the Taiwanese export surge to mainland China. Applying a shift-share design with newly delineated commuting zones (CZs) in Taiwan, our preliminary findings suggest that an across-CZ interquartile change in China export exposure leads to a 1.2% increase in pro-independence vote shares during 2000-2016. Individual data from socioeconomic surveys reveals similar effects on pro-independence attitudes. We do not, however, find evidence of export exposure affecting inclination toward a more exclusive Taiwanese versus Chinese identity. To understand the mechanisms behind the political backlash of trade integration, we

plan to disentangle the potential roles of labor market adjustments to trade versus an indirect political deterrence effect from overall economic dependence.

### **Immigration and Assimilation of the Chinese Diaspora in Indonesia**

*Abstract:* This paper studies the effects of state-enforced assimilation policy on immigrant integration. I focus on the Chinese diaspora in Indonesia when long-lasting anti-Chinese legislation during the New Order (1966-1998) was revoked after the fall of Suharto. I exploit across-regency differences in ethnic Chinese shares prior to the revoke as a proxy for the intensity of out-group exposure. The difference-in-difference estimates suggest the revoke of the legislation fostered cultural assimilation of Chinese Indonesians, as measured by language use and religious affiliation. Additional data collection is in process to study economic and political assimilation, as ethnic Chinese are perceived as economic insiders but political outsiders in Indonesia. All in all, this study aims to contribute to understanding how state policy affects immigrant integration in the context of south-south migration.

### **Engineering Education and Bureaucratic Supply: Evidence from India**

<b>Conferences and Seminars (*Scheduled)</b>	<p><b>2023</b> NEUDC (Harvard), EWMES (Manchester), UiS Business School, SDU, RES Annual Conference (*Belfast), CGU (*Brasilia, online), MWIEDC (*Chicago), Doctorissimes (*PSE)</p> <p><b>2022</b> CAGE Summer School (Warwick), ACES Political Economy Summer School (LSE)</p>
<b>Teaching Experience</b>	<p><i>Teaching Assistant</i>, Mathematics (Graduate), CEMFI Fall 2021</p> <p><i>Teaching Assistant</i>, Uncertainty and Information (Graduate), CEMFI Winter 2021, 2023</p>
<b>Relevant Positions</b>	<p><i>Research Assistant</i>, Dr. Yarine Fawaz, CEMFI 2021 - Present</p> <p><i>Research Assistant</i>, Prof. Manuel Arellano, CEMFI 2020 - 2021</p> <p><i>Research Assistant</i>, Prof. Monica Martinez-Bravo, CEMFI 2019</p>
<b>Grants, Awards, and Honors</b>	<p><i>Maria de Maeztu</i> Research Grant (€2000) 2023</p> <p>CEMFI Ph.D. Scholarship 2020-2024</p> <p>CEMFI Master in Economics and Finance Scholarship 2018-2020</p> <p>Presidential Scholarship for International Exchange, RUC 2016-2017</p> <p>China National Scholarship 2015 &amp; 2016</p> <p>China National Petroleum Corporation Scholarship 2014</p>
<b>Short-term Visits</b>	<p><i>INEP</i>, Ministry of Education Apr. 2023</p> <p>Brasilia, Brazil</p>
<b>Citizenship</b>	Chinese
<b>Languages</b>	Mandarin (Native), English (Fluent), Spanish (Intermediate), Portuguese (Basic), German (Beginner)

*Last Updated:* Jan. 2024