

# Xianhua (Emma) Zai

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## EMPLOYMENT

Research Scientist, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany, 2021-  
Researcher, Max Planck – University of Helsinki Center for Social Inequalities in Population Health,  
Rostock, Germany and Helsinki, Finland, 2023-  
Visiting Researcher, Population Research Unit, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, 2023-

## RESEARCH VISITS

Sapienza University of Rome, December 2023  
Department of Economics and Finance, University of Rome Tor Vergata, December 2023  
Munich Research Institute for the Economics of Aging (MEA), Munich, Germany, October 2023  
Center for Social Inequalities in Population Health, University of Helsinki, September 2023  
PSL Université Paris Dauphine, Paris, France, July 2023

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Consumer Sciences (Economics Track), The Ohio State University, Columbus, U.S., 2021  
Dissertation: "Essays on Medicaid Aging Waivers and Informal Caregiving for the Elderly"  
M.A. Economics, Fudan University, Shanghai, China, 2017  
B.A. Economics, Jilin University, Changchun, China, 2014

## RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary: Economics of Aging, Health Economics  
Secondary: Population Health, Health Inequalities, Social Discrimination

## PUBLICATIONS

X. Zai (2024). [Beyond the Brink: Unraveling the Opioid Crisis and its Profound Impacts](#). *Economics and Human Biology*, 53, 101379  
Lin, L. and X. Zai (2024). [Assessing the Impact of Public Insurance on Healthcare Utilization and Mortality: A Nationwide Study in China](#). *SSM - Population Health*, 25, 101615

Chan, J., X. Fang, Z. Wang, X. Zai, Q. Zhang (2020). [Valuing Primary Schools in Urban China](#). *Journal of Urban Economics*, 115, 103183

[Are the Grandparents Alright? The Health Consequences of Grandparental Childcare Provision](#) (with Peter Eibich, **R&R** at *Journal of Population Economics*)

[The Unintended Effect of Medicaid Aging Waivers on Informal Caregiving](#) (with Yinan Liu, **R&R** at *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*)

## WORKING PAPERS

[The Role of Supply Responses in Public Insurance Expansion: Evidence from China's New Cooperative Medical Scheme](#) (with Lin Lin)

[Evaluating the Health Outcomes of Aging in Place: The Role of Medicaid Aging Waiver Program on U.S. Older Adults](#)

Examining the Far-reaching Effects of the Opioid Epidemic on Labor and Health

[Beyond Insurance: The Impact of Partnership Long-Term Care Program on Labor Markets](#) (with Yinan Liu)

## WORK IN PROCESS

Structural Racism in Early Life and Wellbeing in the Life Course (with Megan Evans)

Mortality Predication and End-of-Life Healthcare Costs for Cancer Patients (with Peng Li)

Determinants of Cancers: The Role of Genetics and Education Using UK Biobank and FinnGen (with Peng Li)

Treatment Behaviour and Healthcare Costs for End-of-Life Patients (with Peng Li)

The Intergenerational Reciprocity: Monetary and Time Transfers (with Peter Eibich)

The Costs of Grandparenting on Labor Market Outcomes: Evidence from US and Europe (with Peter Eibich and Shuye Yu)

The Unintended Effect of Opioid Crisis on Intergenerational Caregiving (with Zhuoer Lin)

Can Public Insurance Mitigate the Effects of Temperature on Mortality (with Lin Lin and Yun Qiu)

Automation, Technological Adoption, and Healthcare Use (with Qinyou Hu and Lin Lin)

## CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

2024 German Health Economics Association (DGGÖ) (Saale/Halle), PAA (Columbus, USA), EuHEA (Vienna)

2023 MPIDR Seminar, Electronic Health Economics Colloquium (EHEC), the 12th Annual ASHEcon (chair and discussant, St. Louis), THL Sociogenomics Workshop (Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Helsinki), EAPS Health, Morbidity and Mortality Working Group (Budapest), Society for Longitudinal and Lifecourse Studies conference (SLLS, Munich), Workshop on Healthy Ageing and Adult Caregiving (UPenn and LSE, discussant, online), European Health Economics Association (EuHEA) seminar, Italian Association of Health Economics (AIES, Rome)

2022 Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting (online), European Population Conference (EPC) (online), American Causal Inference Conference (ACIC) (online), Paris School of Economics (PSE) Summer School (online), 2nd IZA/CINCH/AHIL Workshop on the Economics of Long-Term Care and Healthy Aging (online), Network for Data-Intensive Research on Aging (NDIRA) workshop at University of Minnesota, 29th European Workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics (EWEHE) (discussant, declined), the 6th International Long-term care Policy Network (ILPN) at LSE, Society for Longitudinal and Lifecourse Studies (SLLS) conference (online), the Southern Economic Association (SEA) conference (Ft. Lauderdale), 8th Workshop of dggö Health Econometrics (Leibniz University of Hannover), IESR seminar at Jinan University (C\*2), Nanjing University (C\*2), Renmin University of China (C), Fudan University (C), University of International Business and Economics (C), Chinese Economists Society (CES) (Wuhan, China)(C)

(C: Presentation by Coauthors)

2017-2021 Jinan University/Global Labor Organization IESR-GLO Joint Conference, MPIDR Pandemic Babies Conference, EBES/GLO Conference, IMPRS/MPIDR Life Course Analysis Workshop, Bowling Green State University/Ohio State University, Ohio State University, Graduate Women in Economics (GWIE) Workshop (OSU), American Council on Consumer Interests (ACCI) Conference, North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association (NARSC)/Urban Economics Association (UEA)

## HONORS & AWARDS

AIES Young Research Award, 2023

NDIRA Scholar, University of Minnesota, 2022

Small Grants Award, Retirement and Disability Research Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2020-2021

Jean S. Bowers/Fern E. Hunt Fellowship, College of Education and Human Ecology, The Ohio State University, 2020-2021

Career Development Grant, Council of Graduate Students, The Ohio State University, 2020-2021

Scholar of Junior Scholar Intensive Training Program, Retirement and Disability Research Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2020

ACCI Student Professional Conference Scholarship, 2018, 2019

Hua Meng Scholarship of Young Scholars in Economics, Education Development Foundation, Shanghai, China, 2017-2020

Graduate Student Professional Travel Awards, College of Education and Human Ecology, The Ohio State University, 2017-2019

## TEACHING

Instructor – IMPRS-PHDS (Aging and Health) (2021)

Co-instructor – CFFS 5250 Retirement Planning and Employee Benefits (Graduate) (Spring 2021)

Co-instructor – CFFS 4270 Retirement Planning and Employee Benefits (Autumn 2020)

## SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

### *PhD Students*

2022– Ailun Shui (Department of Health Economics, University of Groningen)

### *Master Students and Research Assistants*

2023–2024 Carlotta Dietrich (RA of Labor Demography at MPIDR)

2023–2024 Caspar David Stordeur (RA of Labor Demography at MPIDR)

2022–2023 Patrik Harnisch (RA of Labor Demography at MPIDR)

2021–2023 Zhenyuan Liu (Department of Health Economics, University of York)

## SERVICES

Seminar organizer, MPIDR (2023–)

Search Committee, EDSO Program at MPIDR (ad hoc)

Co-founder, [Graduate Women in Economics Association at OSU](#) (2019–2021)

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Italian Association of Health Economics (AIES) (2023–)

Population Association of America (PAA) (2022–)

European Association for Population Studies (EAPS) (2022–)

American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) (2022–)

Global Labor Organization (GLO) affiliate (2019–)

Association for American Council of Consumer Interests (ACCI) (2017–2019)

Urban Economics Association (UEA) (2017–2020)

North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association (NARSC) (2017–2020)

## MISCELLANEOUS

*Programming Languages:* L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Python, Stata, SAS, R, ArcGIS

*Spoken Languages:* English (fluent), Chinese (native), Japanese (basic), German (basic)