

Pearl Z. Li

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Employment

- 2026– Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- 2025–2026 Postdoctoral Fellow, Cowles Foundation for Research in Economics, Yale University
- 2024–2025 Economist, Antitrust I Division, Federal Trade Commission

Education

- 2018–2024 PhD in Economics, Stanford University
Committee: Paulo Somaini, Liran Einav, Matthew Gentzkow, Lanier Benkard
- 2015–2016 MA in Mathematics, University of Pennsylvania
- 2012–2016 BA in Mathematics and Economics, University of Pennsylvania

Research Fields

Industrial Organization, Urban Economics, Market Design

Working Papers

“Value Pricing or Lexus Lanes? The Distributional Effects of Dynamic Tolling” (with Cody Cook). Revise & resubmit, *American Economic Review*. November 2025.

“Where to Build Affordable Housing? Evaluating the Tradeoffs of Location” (with Ariel J. Binder and Cody Cook). Revise & resubmit, *Journal of Political Economy*. March 2025.

“Identification Using Revealed Preferences in Linearly Separable Models” (with Nikhil Agarwal and Paulo Somaini). NBER Working Paper No. 31868. November 2023.

Publications

“DSGE Forecasts of the Lost Recovery” (with Michael Cai, Marco Del Negro, Marc P. Giannoni, Abhi Gupta, and Erica Moszkowski). *International Journal of Forecasting*, Volume 35, Issue 4. October 2019.

Selected Work in Progress

“(Re)allocation Mechanisms For Durable Goods: Theory and Evidence from Public Housing” (with Ariel J. Binder and Cody Cook).

“Electric Vehicle Charging Demand and Optimal Siting of EV Chargers” (with Costas Arkolakis, Kenneth T. Gillingham, and Seung-Yong Yoo).

“Social Capital in Rural America” (with Cody Cook).

Awards and Grants

2025	Best Overall Paper, ITEA Annual Conference on Transportation Economics
2025	Dissertation Award, Transportation and Public Utilities Group
2023–2024	B.F. Haley and E.S. Shaw Fellowship for Economics, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research
2023–2024	Dissertation Fellowship, Stanford Institute for Research in the Social Sciences
2022	George P. Shultz Graduate Fellowship, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research
2018–2019	Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education Fellowship, Stanford University
2018–2019	Economics Department Fellowship, Stanford University
2016	Phi Beta Kappa, University of Pennsylvania
2016	Bernard Shanbaum Prize, Economics Department, University of Pennsylvania
2015	Simon Kuznets Fellowship Award, Penn Institute for Economic Research

Presentations

(Including [scheduled](#); ^d indicates participation as a discussant)

2025–2026	NBER Transportation Networks and the Spatial Distribution of Economic Activity, NERA, UIUC, CMU Heinz, Tufts, Berkeley (Agricultural & Resource Economics), Stony Brook, AREUEA National Conference ^d
2024–2025	Wharton/Philly Fed Conference on Urban and Regional Economics ^d , Brookings, ASSA Annual Meeting, NYU Trade and Spatial Economics Conference, ITEA Annual Conference
2023–2024	UEA North American Meeting, WashU, Compass Lexecon, Federal Trade Commission, Penn Wharton (Real Estate), Duke, Purdue, US Department of Justice, Penn (Economics), Berkeley Haas (Real Estate), USC, Cornerstone, Meta, Georgetown, NBER Economics of Transportation in the 21st Century, UBC Centre for Urban Economics and Real Estate Summer Symposium, EIEF Applied Micro Junior Conference
2022–2023	WEAI Graduate Student Workshop
2016–2017	JuliaCon

Refereeing

Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics, Journal of Urban Economics

Previous Employment

2019–2020	Research Assistant for Paulo Somaini, Stanford University
2016–2018	Senior Research Analyst, Federal Reserve Bank of New York
2015	Summer Research Analyst, Federal Reserve Bank of New York
2014	Research Assistant for Jerry Kim, Columbia University

2013–2014 Research Assistant for David Abrams, University of Pennsylvania

Teaching

2020–2023 Teaching Assistant, Market Design (UG), Stanford University

Teaching Assistant, Decision Modeling and Information (UG), Stanford University, x2

Teaching Assistant, Industrial Organization I (PhD), Stanford University, x2

Course Assistant, Data and Decisions (MBA), Stanford University

2013–2015 Teaching Assistant, Honors Calculus I (UG), University of Pennsylvania

Teaching Assistant, Programming Languages and Techniques I (UG), University of Pennsylvania, x3

Other Information

Citizenship: USA

Data clearance: Census Bureau Special Sworn Status

Last updated: April 2026