

# LEI XU

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Nationality: Chinese

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## **Education Background:**

01. 2022 – 05. 2023: PGCHE, Bournemouth University

11. 2014 – 05. 2018: PhD in Economics, University of Dundee

09. 2013 – 11. 2014: MSc in Economics, Queen Mary University of London

09. 2008 – 07. 2012: BSc in Mechanical engineering and automation, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China

## **Employment:**

08. 2023 – Present: Lecturer in Economics, Loughborough University

09. 2021 – 07.2023: Lecturer in Economics, Bournemouth University

02. 2018 – 09.2021: Economist, National Institute of Economic and Social Research

## **Other Appointments:**

05. 2022-present: Research Fellow, Global Labor Organization

09. 2022-present: Research Affiliate, IZA

07. 2023-present: HEA fellowship

## **Teaching Experience:**

Module Leader: Basic Statistical Techniques (1<sup>st</sup> year BSc), Business and Finance Analytics (MSc)

Module participated: Sustainable Regional Development (MSc); Economics for Accounting and Finance (1<sup>st</sup> year BSc); Global Business Environment (1<sup>st</sup> year BSc); Mathematics for Economists (2<sup>nd</sup> year BSc)

## **Research Interest and Skills:**

Research Interest: Labour Economics, Economics of Education, Chinese topics

Software: Stata, R, Eviews, Python

Language: English (Fluent), Mandarin (Native)

### **Journal Publications:**

- [7] "[Does the employment effect of National Minimum Wage vary by non-employment rate? A Regression Discontinuity approach](#)" with Yu Zhu. *The Manchester School*, 2023.
- [6] "[Higher Education Expansion and Supply of Teachers in China](#)" with Fengyan Dai and Yu Zhu. *China Economic Review*, 2022.
- [5] "[Return to apprenticeships: A comparison between existing apprentices and newly recruited apprentices.](#)" with Stefan Speckesser. *Oxford Economic Papers*, 2022.
- [4] "[The impact of an underfunded migrant education policy: Evidence from the 2013 China Education Panel Survey](#)" with Massimiliano Tani and Yu Zhu. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 2021.
- [3] "[A Decomposition of Student Achievement Gap by Gender in China: The Roles of Hukou, School Quality and Own Effect](#)" with Rundong Luo, Kuan Teng, Yu Zhu. *International Journal of Educational Research*, 2021.
- [2] "[Elite school designation and house prices: Quasi-experimental evidence from Beijing, China.](#)" with Bin Huang, Xiaoyan He, and Yu Zhu. *Journal of Housing Economics*, 2020.
- [1] "[Does the higher education expansion in the UK reduce the returns to education? A comparison of returning-from-work versus fresh out-of-school graduates.](#)", with Bin Huang and Yu Zhu, *Economic modelling*, 2019.

### **Book Chapters:**

"[Returns to Higher Education – Graduate and Discipline Premiums](#)" with Yu Zhu. Chapter in Springer Nature *Handbook of Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics*. 2022.

### **Working Papers:**

- "Peer effects in classrooms – Evidence from random assignment" with Yu Zhu.
- "Does teaching style matter for the SES gap in Test scores? Evidence from a randomised class assignment quasi-experiment" with Massimiliano Tani and Yu Zhu.
- "The Roles of Ethnicity and Immigration in Returns to Credentials: Evidence from the UK" with Yu Zhu.
- "The impact of University Education on women's fertility – Evidence from Chinese Higher Education expansion" with Fengyan Dai and Yu Zhu.
- "Long-term health benefits of education: Does spousal education matter?" with Yu Zhu.
- "Apprenticeships and firm performance: An empirical investigation using 'Big Data' for all English business" with Stefan Speckesser.

### **Other Publications:**

- "Demand for digital skills in English apprenticeships: Types of skills and earnings differentials found in job vacancy data" with Stefan Speckesser.
- "Tips by Text" with Lucy Stokes, Anneka Dawson, Ceri Williams, Kate Alexander, Georgie Akehurst, Chiara Manzoni, Johnny Runge. 2022.
- "Understanding the determinants of employment apprentices: From an economic perspective" BU Research Blog. 2021.

“Supervision of Designated Safeguarding Leads in Primary Schools in Bolton” with Lucy Stokes, Richard Dorsett, Chiara Manzoni, and Johnny Runge. 2021.

“How will coronavirus affect the lifetime earnings of new graduates?” Economic Observatory. 2020.

“China and the United Kingdom: Economic Relationships” with Allen, B; Chadha, J S; Kara, A; Pabst, A; Nguyen, D; Mao, X; Turner, P. 2020.

“UK General Election Briefing: Education Policy Priorities and A Look Into The Manifestos” with Janine Boshoff; Espinoza, H; Elena Lisauskaite; Stefan Speckesser. 2019.

### **Research Grants and Awards:**

“Digital skills in the apprenticeships of the 2020s and expected impacts”, funded by Nuffield Foundation, Co-Investigator, 2020-2023, £100,613.

“Understanding the determinants of employing apprentices from a business perspective”, funded by ESRC Business Boost, 2021, £10,643.

SGPE PhD scholarship, 2014-2017.

Royal Economic Society Conference Grant, 2017.

University of Dundee PhD Conference Grants, 2015-2017.

### **Conference and Invited talks:**

2023: Royal Economic Society

2022: Nanjing University (Invited talk); WPEG

2021: Royal Economic Society

2019: European Society for Population Economics, BIBB conference.

2018: Innovation and Productivity in China, Topics and Methods in Labour Market Research, Centre for Vocational Education Conference.

2017: European Association of Labour Economists; Work, Pensions and Labour Economics Study Group; SGPE Residential Conference; Royal Economic Society PhD Meeting.

2016: Work, Pensions and Labour Economics Study Group; Scottish Economic Society.

### **Referee Experience:**

Journal of Business Research, Empirical Economics, China Economic Review, Bulletin of Economic Research, International Journal of Educational Development, Applied Economics, Applied Economics Letters

### **References:**

Professor Yu Zhu

Economic Studies

University of Dundee

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