

Pei Gao

Contact

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Academic Position

Assistant Professor, LKYSPP, National University of Singapore, 2024-present

Joint Appointment, Yale-NUS college, 2020– present

Assistant Professor, NYU-Shanghai; Global Network Assistant Professor, NYU, 2016-2020

Education

2016, **Ph.D.** London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

2009, **M.Sc.** Economic History, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

2008, **B.A.** Economics, Xinan Jiaotong University, China

Research Interests

Development Economics, Economic History, Chinese Economy

Publications

- Gao, Pei, Aditi Kothari, and Yu-Hsiang Lei. "Safe spaces for children: School sanitation and sexual violence." *European Economic Review* 172 (2025): 104952.
- Gao, Pei, and Eric B. Schneider. "The growth pattern of British children, 1850–1975." *The Economic History Review* 74, no. 2 (2021): 341-371.
- Gao, Pei, and Yu-Hsiang Lei. "Communication infrastructure and stabilizing food prices: evidence from the telegraph network in China." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 13, no. 3 (2021): 65-101.

Book Chapter:

- Education and Human Capital, in *The Cambridge Economic History of China Volume II*, Cambridge University Press. 2022
- Risen from the Chaos: The Emergence of Modern Education in China, in *Globalization and the Rise of Mass Education*, Palgrave Macmillan. 2019

Working Papers:

- Opportunity and Parental Investment: Evidence from China (with Yiqing Lv and Xin Zhou), reject and resubmit at *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*

- Connecting Rebels, Empowering State: Communication Technology and Social Unrest in Qing China (With Shuo Chen, Zhichen Huang, and Yushiang Lei), prepare for submission

Work in Progress:

- The Impact of Dams in a Changing Climate (with Yuhsiang Lei and Simone Genetin)
- Climate Risk & Trade (With Yiqing Lv and Yan Luo)
- Local Elites and Public Good Provision in Early 20th Century China

Research Grant and Awards

Principal Investigator, MOE Arc Tier-2 Grant, 2023- 2026

Principal Investigator, Yale-NUS Seed Grant, 2022 – 2024

Principal Investigator, Yale-NUS Chinese Research Pocket Grant, 2021

Principal Investigator, Yale-NUS Start-up Grant, 2020-2023

NYU Start-up Grant, 2016-2020

Finalists of the Best Thesis Asia-Pacific Prize in Economic History

Collaborator, ESRC Research Grant, 2014-18

ESRC Residential Training Course Grant, 2012

PhD Studentship, London School of Economics, 2009-2014

Academic Activities

Member of Editorial Board:

European Review of Economic History

Referee Services:

Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic History, Journal of Human Resources, Economics of Education Review, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, The Economic History Review, Economic Letters, European Review of Economic History, Australian Economic History Review, Economic Modelling

Teaching

LKYSPP, NUS, Singaore

Economic Foundations for Public Policy (MPP Core Course

Capstone Thesis Course

Yale-NUS College, Singapore

The Chinese Economy

Contemporary Social Inquiry

Topics in Economic History

NYU-Shanghai, China

Development Economics

History of Economic Growth

London School of Economics, UK

Chinese Economic History

Conferences and Invited Talks

2025	Peiking University, New Chinese Economic History Workshop (Melbourne)
2024	Economic History Association Annual Meeting (California, US), The University of New South Wales, Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economics Conference
2023	Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society (NTU), Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Political Economy Workshop (Fudan University)
2022	World Economic History Congress (Paris), CAG Research Connect at NUS
2021	SMU-NUS Local Development Workshop, Economic History of Developing Regions Virtual Seminar (Warwick); National University of Singapore; CEIBS
2020	Hitotsubashi University, Osaka University, Kobe University, Fudan University, NUS - East Asia Institute
2019	Cepremap India-China Conference (Warwick), North American Urban Economics Association (Philadelphia), Asian Meeting of the Econometrics Society (Xiamen University), Fudan University, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics
2018	NYU-Stern, Yale-NUS, World Congress of Economic History (Boston); Economic History Society Annual Conference
2017	Utrecht University, Fudan University
2016	Oxford, Warwick, National Australia University, University of Tuebingen, University of Barcelona, NYU-Shanghai, Asian Economic History Association Conference, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics
2015	Oxford- Warwick- LSE Economic History Workshop, Cliometrics Annual Conference (Michigan); World Economic History Congress (Kyoto), European Economic History Annual Conference
2013	Economic History Association Annual Conference (UBC), World Congress of Cliometrics (Hawaii)

Language and Skills

Chinese (Native), English (Professional)

STATA, R, ArcGIS