

Irisa Zhou

Contact Information

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Research Interests

Macroeconomics, Labor Economics, with a particular focus on impacts of frictions on the labor market.

Positions

Visiting Assistant Professor | Indiana University Bloomington 08/2026–Present

Education

Ph.D. in Economics University of Toronto	2026
<i>Committee:</i> Gueorgui Kambourov (Co-supervisor), Ronald Wolthoff (Co-supervisor), Sebastian Dyrda	
M.A. in Economics University of Toronto	2020
B.A. in Honours Economics & Mathematics Major McGill University	2019

Working Papers

Learning the Major-Industry Mismatch (Job Market Paper)

Awards: CES 2025 NA Gregory Chow Rising Star Award, Runner Up

Presentations: CEA 2025 (@Montreal), CES NA 2025 (@Ann Arbor), Macro Seminar (@UofT)

Searching with Non-binding Asking Prices

Presentations: CEA 2024 (@Toronto), Macro Brownbag Seminar (@UofT),

Urban BrownBag Seminar (@UofT)

AI and Returns to Experience in Entrepreneurship, with Ziqing Yan

Awards: NSERC CREATE program for Accelerated Discovery

Presentations: Morning BrownBag Seminar¹ (@Yale)

Work in Progress

Safety Net or Trap: Informal Sector Employment over the Business Cycle, with Yanran Guo

Awards and Grants

Productivity Partnership Travel Grant	2025
The Chinese Economist Society Travel Grant	2025
Runner Up for Gregory Chow Rising Star Award	2025
University of Toronto Doctoral Fellowship	2020–2025
Ontario Graduate Scholarship	2020, 2022, 2023
Faculty of Arts and Sciences Graduate Admission Award	2019

Teaching Experience

Instructor, Computational Methods in Macroeconomics | IUB Fall 2026

¹Presented by co-author

Teaching Assistant | University of Toronto

2019–2026

- Undergraduate Intermediate Microeconomics and Macroeconomic
- Undergraduate Advanced Field Courses: Monetary Policy, International Trade, Financial Economics

Skills

Programming

Python, Matlab, Stata, ArcGIS, R, $\LaTeX$

Natural Language Processing via LLMs (e.g. OpenAI), Cloud Computing

Languages

English (native), Mandarin (native), Cantonese (fluent), French (conversational)

Academic Service

Co-President, Graduate Economics Union

2022–2023

References

Gueorgui Kambourov

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Ronald Wolthoff

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