

Laura Weiwu

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Positions

Assistant Professor, UC Berkeley Haas School of Business	2025-
Post-Doctoral Fellow, Stanford Department of Economics	2024-2025

Education

PhD in Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2018-2024
<i>Dissertation:</i> “Essays on Inequality in Cities”	
<i>Committee:</i> David Autor, Dave Donaldson, David Atkin	
BA in Economics, <i>with Honors and Distinction</i> , Stanford University	2014-2018
BS in Applied Mathematics, <i>with Distinction</i> , Stanford University	2014-2018

Research Interests

Labor, Urban/Spatial, Economic History

Working Papers

Unequal Access: Racial Segregation and the Distributional Impacts of Interstate Highways in Cities

Opportunity in Motion: Equilibrium Effects of Infrastructure on Economic Mobility

The Intergenerational Effects of Local Shocks: Income, Migration, and Human Capital
(with Martha Stinson and Sean Wang)

Works in Progress

Measuring Winners and Losers from Increasing Housing Supply (with Vincent Rollet)

Intergenerational Mobility for Generation X: Estimates from Administrative Data (with Martha Stinson)

Other Papers

Intergenerational Linkages between Historical IRS 1040 Data and the Numident: 1964-1979 Cohorts
(with Martha Stinson) Census Bureau Center for Economic Studies (CES) Technical Note

Fellowships and Awards

Allan Nevins Prize, <i>best dissertation in American history</i> , Economic History Association	2024
Best Graduate TA of the Year (Top 3), MIT Economics	2024
Best Student Paper Prize, Urban Economics Association	2023
Institute for Humane Studies Fellowship	2023
C. Lowell Harriss Dissertation Fellowship, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy	2023
Graduate Women of Excellence, MIT	2023
Graduate Student Council Teaching Award in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS), <i>one professor or TA from each school</i> , MIT	2021
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship	2018-2023
Department of Economics Graduate Fellowship, MIT	2018-2020
David M. Kennedy Thesis Prize, <i>best thesis in the Social Sciences</i> , Stanford	2018
Firestone Medal, <i>best thesis in Economics</i> , Stanford	2018
Phi Beta Kappa, <i>elected as Junior</i> , Stanford	2017
R. Richard Hodge Undergraduate Scholarship, Stanford	2015-2017

Grants

George and Obie Shultz Fund Grant (x4), MIT Economics

2020, 2023

Refereeing

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Review, American Economic Review: Insights, Econometrica, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Urban Economics, Quarterly Journal of Economics

Conferences & Seminars

- 2025 AREUEA-ASSA (discussant), Bocconi (applied micro), LSE (trade/urban), UCLA (trade), Harvard Opportunity Insights seminar, Stanford (labor & history), Chicago-Princeton Spatial Economics Conference, Berkeley Haas RE seminar, NYU (trade), Urban Economics Association (North America), NBER Transportation Networks and the Spatial Distribution of Economic Activity, University of Toronto (urban)
- 2024 Stanford, Stanford GSB, Dartmouth, UC Berkeley Haas, UChicago Booth, UChicago Harris, UPenn Wharton, Boston University, Department of Transportation, Northwestern Kellogg (Strategy RookieFest), Society of Labor Economists, UChicago & Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland Barriers to Economic Opportunity Workshop, Urban Economics Association (Europe), Barcelona Institute for Economics (Urban Workshop), Economic History Association, Northwestern (history), LSE Barriers to Economic Opportunity Workshop, UC Davis (history), UBC Sauder, UC San Diego (trade/spatial), Opportunity Insights Conference, UW Madison (public)
- 2023 RUSH (Regional/Urban/Spatial/Housing) Brownbag, NBER Economics of Transportation, Urban Economics Association Summer School, NBER Summer Institute: Urban Economics, U.S. Census Bureau, MIT (applied micro), Harvard/Boston University Economic History Workshop, Urban Economics Association (North America),
- 2022 Urban Economics Association (Europe), Jerusalem Advanced School in Economic Theory for International Economics, Rising Scholars Chicago Booth, U.S. Census Bureau

Teaching

UGBA 180: Intro to Urban Economics, UC Berkeley

Spring 2026

14.662: PhD Labor Economics, TA with David Autor and Nina Roussille, MIT (6.6/7)

Spring 2024

Relevant Past Positions

Economist (part-time), U.S. Census Bureau

2020-2024

Research Assistant to David Autor, MIT

2019

Research Intern at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York

2017

Research Assistant to Rebecca Diamond & Petra Persson, Stanford

2016-2017

Research Intern at the White House's Council of Economic Advisers

2016

Research Assistant to Matthew Gentzkow, Stanford

2015-2016

Organizing

Berkeley Haas Real Estate and Urban Economics Seminar

2025-

RUSH (Regional/Urban/Spatial/Housing) Graduate Brownbag

2022-2023

MIT Mental Health & Peer Support, Co-Founder

2019-2024

Personal

Citizenship: United States. Date of Birth: October 1996

Last Updated: August 2025