Xuexin Li
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Education

Ph.D. Student in Economics — 2023 – Present
University of Wisconsin–Madison

M.S. in Economics — 2021 – 2023
University of Wisconsin–Madison

B.A. in Finance — 2016 – 2020
Central University of Finance and Economics, Beijing

Research Interests

International Economics, Macroeconomics

Research

Imported Inputs and the Direction of Innovation
Draft available upon request
Presented at: Midwest International Trade & Theory Conference, Spring 2026; Minnesota–Wisconsin International/Macro Student Workshop, Fall 2026

Studies how imported inputs shape the direction of firm innovation. Using linked production, customs, and patent data for Chinese manufacturers, I classify patent claims as product or process innovation and show that after a firm's first import, patenting rises, citations to the source country increase, and innovation tilts toward new products. A dynamic heterogeneous-firm model, in which imports lower product innovation costs more than process costs, examines how early product innovation feeds into later productivity growth and reshapes the firm distribution.

Co-production and Multi-Product Firms in the Global Economy *[SSRN]*
with Chengyuan He and Wentao Zhou
Presented at: Midwest International Trade & Theory Conference, Fall 2026; Midwest Macroeconomics Meeting, Fall 2026 (scheduled)

Using Chinese customs data, we find that firms more exposed to textile and apparel quota removal enter untreated product–destination pairs, mainly by introducing new products in existing markets. In continuing untreated pairs, prices fall and quantities rise. Our model explains these spillovers through shared, non-rival inputs that lower marginal costs across the firm. Adding products raises the return to spending on these inputs. Quantitatively, shared-input expenditure amplifies foreign consumption gains from quota removal and transmits U.S. tariff shocks to third markets. Subsidizing these inputs in China further increases consumption gains abroad.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin–Madison

Economics Forecasting	Fall 2026
Macroeconomics (Graduate)	Spring 2026, Spring 2025
Econometrics III (Graduate)	Fall 2025
Principles of Macroeconomics	Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023

Research Mentor

Summer Research Group (Master's students) Summer 2026

Student Mentoring

Ph.D. application mentoring and placements

Ruiyan Gao (University of Virginia, Economics)
Wenjie Gao (Duke University, Accounting)
Sijiao Liao (Purdue University, Marketing)
Xinmiao Peng (Emory University, Economics)
Jinzhou Xu (The University of Texas at Dallas, Marketing)
Wanting Zhang (University of California, Santa Barbara, Economics)
Tianyi Zheng (Michigan State University, Agricultural and Resource Economics)

Awards

Distinguished Teaching Assistant Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025
JPGI Outstanding TA Award 2025
Merit Scholarship 2020
Academic Research Excellence Scholarship 2018

Skills

Computer: Julia, MATLAB, Stata, Python, LaTeX
Language: English (fluent), Mandarin Chinese (native)