







# Mengying Peng

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 in [Mengying Peng](#)

## Education

<b>Ph.D. Candidate</b> , Economics	2021 - 2025 (Expected)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Hitotsubashi University</b></li> <li>Fields: <i>Applied Microeconomics, Development Economics, Economics of Education</i></li> </ul>	Tokyo, Japan
<b>Visiting Ph.D. Student</b> , MLF Teachers College	2023 - 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Arizona State University</b></li> </ul>	Tempe, AZ, USA
<b>M.A.</b> , Economics	2019 - 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Hitotsubashi University</b></li> </ul>	Tokyo, Japan
<b>BAdmin</b> , Accounting	2011 - 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Hunan University</b></li> </ul>	Changsha, China

## Working Papers

**Peer Effects on College Choice: Evidence from Affirmative Action in China** (*Job Market Paper*) with Xiaoyang Ye (Amazon)

**Abstract:** *Affirmative action, implemented in higher education across many countries, aims to promote equal opportunity and improve the representation of underrepresented groups. This paper investigates causal evidence on the influence of peers on student participation in an affirmative action program - the Ethnic Minority Preparatory Classes (EMPC) for college - specifically targets ethnic minority students in China. Utilizing China's unique centralized admissions system and student-level administrative data from one of the poorest provinces, we employ a difference-in-differences framework to estimate the impact of peer success on college admissions. We define peers as ethnic minority students from the same school and registered residence who graduated in the previous year. Our findings show that successful college admissions of peers through affirmative action programs lead to a 2.49% increase in admissions for potential ethnic minority applicants. Additionally, male students and those in a non-STEM track benefit more, with admissions to the program increasing by 3.1% for both groups. Potential applicants whose national college entrance exam scores meet the tier 1 college application threshold experience an even greater influence from peers. These results highlight the substantial impact of peer networks in shaping higher education outcomes for disadvantaged groups and provide insights for enhancing the engagement of underrepresented communities in public programs.*

**Unintended Consequences of Affirmative Action in Higher Education: Evidence from India**

**From Classroom to Harvest: The Effect of Agricultural Price Shocks on Child Labor in China** with Jingcheng Jiang (Hitotsubashi University)

**Bridging the Gaps: How Teacher Diversity Shapes Student Achievement** with Margarita Pivovarova (ASU)

## Works in Progress

**When Ramadan Meets the College Entrance Exam: The Effects on Student Outcomes in China** with Xiaoyang Ye

**Decision-Making in High School Subject Selection for the New College Entrance Exam: Experimental Evidence from China** with Xin Li (East China Normal University)

**Household Head Education and Children's Outcomes: A Cross-National Analysis** with Margarita Pivovarova

**Gender and High School Track Choice in China** with Maria Paola Ugalde Araya (LSU), Xin Li and Xiaoyang Ye

## Presentations

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**2025:** AERA 2025 (Scheduled), AEA/ASSA 2025 (Poster, Scheduled)

**2024:** AASLE 2024 (Scheduled), SEA 2024 (Washington DC, USA), Workshop on Empirical Research in Developing Countries (Hitotsubashi U), AERA 2024 (Poster, Philadelphia, USA), 2024 CES North America (Lewisburg, USA), AEFPP 2024 (Poster, Baltimore, USA)

**2023:** APPAM 2023 (Atlanta, USA), AEFPP 2023 (Denver, USA)

**2022:** AASLE 2022 (Tokyo, Japan), Peking U (Poster, Online), Xiangjiang Forum 2022 at Hunan U (Online)

## Grants and Awards

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**Equity & Inclusion Student Fellowship**, APPAM 2024

**Hitotsubashi International Fellow Program - Outbound**, Hitotsubashi University 2023 & 2024

**Student Travel Grant Award**, AEFPP 2023 & 2024

**Travel Grant**, CSWEP Mentoring Workshop by AEA 2023

**Scholarship for Graduate Students Studying Abroad**, Hitotsubashi University September 2023 - May 2024

**Education Finance and Policy Outstanding Young Scholars Program Scholarship**, Peking University 2023

## Relevant Experience

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### Research Assistant, Hitotsubashi University

- For Prof. **Takashi Kurosaki** February - March 2021 & December 2023 - January 2024
- For Prof. **Nobuhiko Nakazawa** April 2022 - August 2023
- For Prof. **Meradee Tangvatcharapong** March & October 2022

### Teaching Assistant, Hitotsubashi University

- For Prof. **Nobuhiko Nakazawa** September 2021 - January 2022  
- Course: *Introductory Microeconomics* (181 undergraduates)

## Service

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**Conference Session chair:** SEA (2024), AASLE (2022)

**Conference Discussant:** CES (2024), APPAM (2023), Xiangjiang Forum (2022)

**Conference Reviewer:** AERA

**Journal Referee:** Research in Higher Education

## Software and Programming

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Stata,  $\LaTeX$ , Python, R

## Language

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English, Japanese, Chinese (Native), French (Basic)

## References

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[Takashi Kurosaki](#) (Supervisor)  
Professor  
IER, Hitotsubashi University

[Nobuhiko Nakazawa](#)  
Associate Professor  
Graduate School of Economics, Hitotsubashi University

[Margarita Pivovarova](#)  
Associate Professor & Associate Director  
MLF Teachers College, Arizona State University

[Xiaoyang Ye](#)  
Economist  
PXT Central Science, Amazon