

Victor Yifan Ye

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SUMMARY

Lead macroeconomist with concurrent academic appointments and a distinguished publication record across a half-dozen fields, including macro, public, consumer and behavioral finance, urban economics, and the economics of AI. Computational econ expert with extensive experience in the fiscal and economic policy space, an exceptional cross-function track record, and strong backgrounds in machine learning, structural modeling, experimentation, and simulation-based inference.

EDUCATION

- **Boston University**
 - Ph.D. Economics, Feb 2022
- **Duke University**
 - M.S. Statistical and Economic Modeling, May 2017
 - A.B. Philosophy, B.S. Economics Minor in Mathematics, May 2015

EXPERIENCE

• Plaid

- Lead Economist, Aug 2026 -

I lead the macro and credit economics research agenda at Plaid. My research spans topics in consumer, behavioral, and public finance, topics in financial regulations, as well as on utilizing Plaid's credit and transaction data for macro forecasting, nowcasting, and economic and fiscal policy modeling. I am also responsible for managing academic, institutional, and media engagements, developing macroeconomic data pipelines, and integrating econometric structure into the company's ML- and AI-based credit and lending models.

• Opendoor

- Staff Research Scientist, Portfolio Construction, Jan 2023 - Jun 2026
- Senior Research Scientist, Portfolio Construction, Mar 2022 - Dec 2022

I conducted macro-housing, spatial econ, and inference research. My demand estimation modeling directly powered Opendoor's homebuying business, contributing to over \$900 million in annualized revenue frontier expansion since 2023. I have also collaborated on projects on marketing, offer conversion, and improvements to OVM, our core valuation model. I am also the primary DRI for monthly meetings with the executive team to set high-level margin and risk policies, where my research has been responsible for shaping their view of macro turbulence and of the company's long-term profitability and survivability.

• Stanford University

- Digital Fellow, Stanford HAI Digital Economy Lab, Mar 2022 -
- Graduate Research Affiliate, Stanford HAI Digital Economy Lab, Feb 2021 - Feb 2022

I study the economics of AI with an emphasis on utilizing macroeconomic simulations of the global economy to understand the impact of technological change on labor and growth, and adapting reinforcement learning techniques to improve discrete-time macro models. I led the development of a global overlapping generations model, specifically designed to study the impact of AI and transformative AI (TAI) technologies. I am also responsible for securing research funding, as well as recruiting postdoctoral fellows and full-time pre-docs.

• Boston University

- Research Affiliate, Department of Economics, May 2022 - Dec 2025
- Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Economics, June 2016 - Feb 2022

My research at BU focused on macro and public finance. Coauthored projects have been published in top journals such as the *NBER Macro Annual* and *Journal of Political Economy: Macroeconomics*. I also consulted for think tanks and public institutions, including work on Russia's economic demography for the Gaidar Institute, simulating presidential candidate tax plans for the Joint Committee on Taxation, and studying long-run dynamics of the Social Security trust fund for the Congressional Budget Office.

- **Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta**

- Research Affiliate, Research & Data Division, June 2022 - March 2023
- Research Intern, Research & Data Division, May 2018 - Aug 2019

SELECT PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS

Please see my [website](#) for the full list of publications, media mentions, and conference presentations.

- **Inflation's Fiscal Impact on American Households** *NBER Macro Annual*, 2024 vol. 39 (with David Altig, Alan Auerbach, Erin Eidschun, and Laurence Kotlikoff)
- **The Future of Global Economic Power** *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 2025 (with Seth G. Benzell, Laurence J. Kotlikoff, Guillermo LaGarda, Kristina Nesterova, and Andrey Zubarev)
- **Marginal Net Taxation of Americans' Labor Supply**, 2020 (with David Altig, Alan Auerbach, Laurence J. Kotlikoff, and Elias Ilin); forthcoming at *Journal of Political Economy: Macroeconomics*
- **The Global Effect of Transformative AI: Growth, Welfare, Economic Power, and Policy Responses**, *Stanford DEL Working Paper*, 2024 (with Seth G. Benzell)
- **Moving Mountains: Geography, Neighborhood Sorting, and Spatial Income Segregation** *Journal of Regional Science*, 2024 64:4 (with Charles M. Becker)
- **How Much Lifetime Social Security Benefits Are Americans Leaving on the Table?** *Tax Policy and the Economy*, 2023 37:1 (with David Altig and Laurence Kotlikoff)
- **The Global Demographic Transition and Its Impact on Economic Power** *NBER Working Paper*, 2026 (with Seth G. Benzell and Laurence Kotlikoff)
- **Simulating Endogenous Global Automation** *NBER Working Paper*, 2021 (with Seth G. Benzell, Laurence J. Kotlikoff, and Guillermo Lagarda); revise and resubmit at *International Economic Review*

SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- **Public Finance and Macroeconomics** NBER Macroeconomics of Population Aging Conference (Sep 2026); 118th National Tax Association Annual Conference on Taxation (Nov 2025); 39th NBER Annual Conference on Macroeconomics (Apr 2024); 37th NBER Tax Policy and the Economy Conference (Sep 2022); 49th National Tax Association Annual Spring Symposium (May 2019)
- **Urban and Real Estate Economics** 14th Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Oct 2019); 9th Meeting of the European Urban Economics Association (May 2019); 13th Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Oct 2018); 8th Meeting of the European Urban Economics Association (May 2018)
- **Computational Economics and Economics of AI** Wharton AI at Work Conference (May 2025, May 2024); RAND Scalable Analysis Center Seminar (Dec 2024); IMF Jobs, Growth and Structural Reform Seminar (Nov 2024); What If We Succeed? The Economics of Transformative AI Conference (Mar 2024); Stanford DEL Spring Workshop: Avoiding the Turing Trap (Apr 2022)

TEACHING, GRANTS, AND SERVICES

- **Teaching** Urban Economics; Duke University (Instructor; Fall 2016, Spring 2017; Teaching Assistant, Fall 2015); Computable General Equilibrium Modeling; Duke University (Teaching Assistant; Spring 2016)
- **Select Referee Services** *European Economic Review*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *National Tax Journal*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Journal of Economic Geography*, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*
- **Grants and Research Funding** Boston University (2016-2025), Stanford Digital Economy Lab (2021-), the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (2018-2023), the Goodman Institute (2020), the Gaidar Institute (2017-2022), NBER (honorariums in 2022 and 2024), the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation (as grant coauthor, 2021-2023).

SKILLS

- **Programming** – R, Python, SQL, Julia, Fortran, C++, Matlab, Stata | CUDA, Stan, CVXPY, MLflow, Tensorflow
- **Statistics and Computation** – Machine learning, experimentation, causal inference, numerical optimization methods, Bayesian statistics, structural estimation; extensive experience in statistical computing, discrete time macro, and large simulation models.
- **Languages** – Native/bilingual in English and Mandarin; working knowledge of Cantonese and Japanese