

# CHEN Junhao

POLITICAL ECONOMY · EDUCATION · TEXTUAL METHODS

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## EDUCATION

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|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2018 – 2024 | <b>Ph.D.</b> in Economics | BOSTON UNIVERSITY, MA      |
| 2016 – 2018 | <b>M.A.</b> in Economics  | BOSTON UNIVERSITY, MA      |
| 2012 – 2016 | <b>B.A.</b> in Economics  | FUDAN UNIVERSITY, SHANGHAI |

## RESEARCH

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### WORKING PAPER

#### 1. **Life-saving Fundraising: Need-based or Merit-based?** *Job Market Paper*

This paper studies how donors respond to merit and need when giving to families facing unaffordable medical expenses. With data from a leading Chinese crowdfunding platform, I find that campaigns receive more donations if fundraisers report attending higher-ranked colleges. By controlling for textual characteristics and exploiting within-donor variation at the transaction level, I show that donors favor patients who attend better colleges, but not ill family members of a college-attending fundraiser. In line with limited information about college rank, the residual rank effect is more pronounced for the top institutions and is muted for out-of-province ones.

An online RCT is designed to elicit respondents' willingness to donate to 20 synthetic fundraising stories (relative to some benchmark). The college tier of the patients and requested donation amounts will be independently randomized. Incentives a la Kessler et al. (2019) will be provided to ensure truthful reporting.

### WORK IN PROGRESS

#### 2. **Learning in Policy Making** *Joint with Yiming Cao*

Using large language models to categorizing policy documents and exploiting a unique social networking setup among policymakers at China's Party School, we investigate the diffusion of policy ideas. The study finds that policy diffusion is more likely between cities with leaders who were classmates in these training programs. The results indicate that social networks significantly influence policy transmission. The impact of these social connections is equivalent to approximately 10% of the effect of directly moving a policymaker from one jurisdiction to another. These findings primarily apply to non-economic policies, suggesting that when tackling complex social problems, policymakers rely on knowledge exchange with more experienced peers in their network.

## TEACHING

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Teaching competence: Microeconomics, Undergraduate applied micro, Political economy, Empirical methods, Textual analysis in Python

## CONFERENCE & SEMINAR

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2023.09 Science of Philanthropy Initiative (SPI) CHICAGO UNIVERSITY

## HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

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2023.07 IED Research Grant(\$3000) BOSTON UNIVERSITY

## SKILLS

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Python, Stata, SQL, HTML