

# Chen Xiang

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## Personal Information

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## Education

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### **The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Department of Economics**

Doctor of Philosophy in Economics 09/2022-present

Supervisor: Prof. Marc Dordal Carreras

MPhil in Economics 09/2020-08/2022

MPhil Committee: Prof. Marc Dordal Carreras (supervisor), Prof. Sujata Visaria (Chair), Prof. Robin Kaiji Gong

### **The University of Hong Kong, Faculty of Business and Economics** 09/2018-08/2019

Master's Degree in Economics (with Distinction)

### **Shandong University, School of Economics** 09/2014-06/2018

Bachelor's Degree in Economics

### **University of Pennsylvania, College of Liberal & Professional Studies** 09/2016-01/2017

## Fields of Interest

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Economic Development; Labor Economics; Chinese Economy; Macroeconomics

## MPhil Thesis

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### *Gender Gap, Structural Change and Female Comparative Advantage: A Quantitative Analysis of China*

Abstract: Using a multi-sector general equilibrium model with endogenous household labor supply decision, this paper proposes a framework to account for the declining female labor force participation (FLFP) rate and widening gender gap in labor force participation rates in China from the structural change and comparative advantage perspective. Based on a modified Roy-Ricardo model, I formally estimate female comparative advantage in the primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors, and document rising trends for the market sectors relative to home sector. The rising female comparative advantage in the market sectors is expected to drive more female workers to the workforce and makes the observed growing gender inequality in China's labor market puzzling. I argue that the interplay between structural change and female comparative advantage dynamics, instead of comparative advantage alone, determines the FLFP rate and the gender gap. FLFP rate is expected to drop when women have comparative advantage in the diminishing sector relative to the expanding one, and the effect from rising female comparative advantage in market sectors is not dominant. The theory can reconcile the increasing

female comparative advantage in market sectors relative to home sector with the growing gender gap in China, can account for regional variations in FLFP rates, and can be flexibly applied to other economies to predict their FLFP rate trajectories.

## **Research Assistantships**

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### **Full-time Research Assistant**

For Prof. Heng CHEN, The University of Hong Kong 07/2019-06/2020

### **Part-time Research Assistant**

For Prof. Heng CHEN, The University of Hong Kong 12/2018-06/2019

For Prof. Chicheng MA, The University of Hong Kong 05/2017-08/2017

## **Teaching Assistantships**

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ECON2123 Macroeconomics (Undergraduate) Fall 2021-2022

ECON4264 Economics of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Undergraduate) Spring 2021-2022

## **Personal**

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- Computer: Stata, Matlab, Latex
- Language: English (Fluent); Mandarin (Native); Cantonese (Basic)