Nanxi Fu

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Citizenship: Chinese

Research Interests: Industrial Organization, Urban Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Toronto — 2027 (Expected)
Committee: Yao Luo (Co-supervisor), Matthew Osborne (Co-supervisor), Nathaniel Baum-Snow

M.A in Economics, University of Toronto — 2021

B.A Joint Honours in Economics and Mathematics, McGill University — 2020

Research

Assortment Policy: How Far Can It Move Consumption? (Job Market Paper)

Would Consumers Do Grocery Shopping Differently with Better Vehicle Access?

An Investigation of Heterogeneous Treatment Effects (Pre-Doctoral Work, Undergrad Research Project)

Awards and Grants

Department of Economics PhD Conference Travel Grant, University of Toronto	2026
Student Travel Grant, Canadian Economic Association	2026
University of Toronto Doctoral Fellowship, University of Toronto	2021-Present
Silver Medal Team, Econometric Game, with Tom Stringham (Captain) and Atom Vayalinkal	2022
Faculty of Arts and Sciences Graduate Admission Award, University of Toronto	2020
Brian Coghlan Memorial Prize in Economics, McGill University	2020
Dean's Honours List, McGill University	2017
James McGill Entrance Scholarship, McGill University	2016

Professional Experience

Course Instructor, University of Toronto 2025

- ECO220: Introduction to Data Analysis and Applied Econometrics

Teaching Assistant, University of Toronto 2020-Present

- ECO101: Introductory Microeconomics
- ECO200: Microeconomics Theory
- ECO202: Macroeconomic Theory and Policy
- ECO220: Introduction to Data Analysis and Applied Econometrics
- ECO380: Markets, Competition, and Strategy

Research Assistant 2019 - 2026

- Matthew Osborne: Advanced data processing, spatial analysis (GIS), interviews, drafting *The Economic Impact of Independent and Franchised Grocers in Canada 2025*
- Aradhya Sood: Advanced data processing, spatial analysis (GIS), fuzzy string matching, regression and structural estimation, and RA supervision
- Jiaying Gu: Monte-Carlo Simulations, Literature Review
- Saraswata Chaudhuri: Literature Review, Paper Replication, data processing

Conference Presentations

Annual Conference of EARIE (Mannheim) 2026
Annual Conference of the Canadian Economics Association (Vancouver) 2026

Languages

Mandarin (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate)
Programming: Stata, Python, QGIS, MATLAB, Julia, Java, R

References

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Abstracts

Assortment Policy: How Far Can It Move Consumption?

(Job Market Paper)

This paper examines whether policies requiring retailers to expand their assortment of healthy foods can increase household consumption, motivated by the 2026 updated stocking requirements of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). I develop a two-layer demand model that captures households' expenditure allocation across product categories and retailers. Combining household purchase data with store-level prices and assortment across nine food categories, I find that greater assortment substantially increases expenditure at individual stores but has limited effects on total category expenditure. This suggests that assortment expansion primarily reallocates purchases across retailers rather than increasing overall consumption. Counterfactual simulations of minimum fresh-produce stocking requirements show that these mandates increase purchases at affected stores but generate only modest increases in total fresh-produce consumption, including among low-income households. These findings suggest that assortment mandates alone are unlikely to substantially narrow nutritional disparities and highlight the importance of distinguishing changes in shopping patterns from changes in overall consumption when evaluating retail policies.

Would Consumers Do Grocery Shopping Differently with Better Vehicle Access?

This paper explores how zipcode-level vehicle ownership can relate to consumers' grocery shopping demands in terms of the bundle purchased, frequency of shopping and size of bundles. For households living in regions with 0.1 more likely to have at least one vehicle access, households on average shop 2.1 percent fewer trips to form an average 1000-dollar bundle. This result suggests less frequent shopping and larger bundles in terms of quantity and variety for households that are more likely to have vehicles. This result can also be related to the patterns of these households are more likely to purchase more non-perishable products. The mechanism behind these characteristics can be related to the different quality of stores in terms of the number of varieties supplied around the households. There is no evidence in the data that consumers with better vehicle access can carry more products or search less to pay higher prices for the same products. The role of vehicles in consumers' grocery shopping can have important policy implications on the food desert issues.