YIKAI WANG

(Updated: November 2026)

Contact Information

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Born:	1984

Academic Positions

2019–	Lecturer (Assistant Professor with Tenure)
	Department of Economics, University of Essex
2014–2019	Assistant Professor
	Department of Economics, University of Oslo

Education

2014	PhD, **Economics**, University of Zurich, ***summa cum laude***
	Supervisor: Prof. Fabrizio Zilibotti
2008	MA, **Economics**, Fudan University, Shanghai
2005	BSc, **Computer Science**, Fudan University, Shanghai

Research Interests

- Macroeconomics, Chinese Economy, Machine Learning
- Public Finance, Macro Labour

Selected Publications and R&R

- "The Optimum Quantity of Capital and Debt"
  (with Ömer Acikgöz, Marcus Hagedorn and Hans Holter)
  Resubmitted, ***American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics***
  Presentations: Mannheim Macroworkshop, NBER SI and SED
- "Worker Productivity During Covid-19 and Adaptation to Working From Home"
  (with Ashley Burdett, Ben Etheridge and Li Tang)
  European Economic Review, 2024, 167
- "The Politico-Economic Dynamics of China's Growth"
  Journal of the European Economic Association, 2021, 19(1)
  Media coverage: Aftenposten and NTB

- "Sharing High Growth Across Generations: Pensions and Demographic Transition in China" (with Zheng Song, Kjetil Storesletten and Fabrizio Zilibotti)
  American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, 2015, 7(2): 1-39, lead article
  Media coverage: The Economist, VoxEU and Credit Suisse Global Investor

More Publications, Incl. Invited Contributions

- "Worker Productivity During Lockdown and Working From Home: Evidence from Self-Reports" (with Ben Etheridge and Li Tang)
  Covid Economics, 2020, Issue 52, Pages 118-151, CEPR.
- "Political Economy of the Middle-Income Trap: Implications for Potential Growth"
  In "***Special Issue on Potential Growth and Misallocation in Asia***"
  Asian Development Review, 2016, 33(2)
- "The Urban Pension System"
  (with Zheng Song, Kjetil Storesletten and Fabrizio Zilibotti)
  In ***The Oxford Companion to the Economics of China***, 2014
  edited by Shenggen Fan, Ravi Kanbur, Shang-Jin Wei and Xiaobo Zhang

More Working Papers

- "Machine Learning the Labor Market: Worker and Firm Types and Match Quality"
  (with Marcus Hagedorn and Iourii Manovskii)
- "Private Affluence and Public Poverty: A Theory of Intergenerational Predation through Debt" (with Zheng Song, Kjetil Storesletten and Fabrizio Zilibotti)
- "Search Frictions and Wage Dispersion"
  (with Marcus Hagedorn and Iourii Manovskii)
  Presentations: Dale T Mortensen Conference, NBER SI, Search & Matching Annual Conference and SED.
- "Divide and Rule: An Origin of Polarization and Ethnic Conflicts"
  (with Simon Alder)

Research Projects

- "Machine Learning about the Economy (Labor, Macro and IO)"
  Research Council of Norway (Project 334487, NOK 12 million), 2023–2029, University of Oslo
  Project member (ongoing)
- "Optimal Taxation: A Modern Macroeconomic Approach"
  Research Council of Norway, SKATT program (NOK 2 million), 2018–2021, University of Oslo
  Project member (completed)

- "The Macroeconomics of Inequality, Development and the Welfare State (MACROINEQUALITY)"
  ERC Advanced Grant No. 324085 (EUR 2.1 million), 2013–2018, University of Oslo
  Project member (completed)

Referee Service

Economic Journal, European Economic Review, International Economic Review, Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Labour Economics, Review of Economic Dynamics, Review of Economic Studies, Scandinavian Journal of Economics

Academic Visits

2011/8–2012/7	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2017/1–2017/4	University of Pennsylvania

Conferences and Seminars

- The Fabulous Macroworkshops (Hong Kong & Switzerland), Growth and Institutions (Tsinghua), London MEF Meeting, Sheffield Workshop in Macroeconomics, Surrey Macro Workshop, Oslo-Penn-Toronto Macro Conference, Dale T. Mortensen Conference, Mannheim Macro Workshop, Search and Matching Annual Conference, NorMac, NBER Summer Institute, SED, Econometric Society European Winter Meeting, China Economic Summer Institute, Initiative for Computational Economics.
- Reading, UZH, Bank of Canada, Renmin, UiO, UNO, Essex, Higher School of Economics, NHH, Penn, Birmingham, Kent, Bocconi, Collegio Carlo Alberto, CUHK, HKU, MIT.

Teaching

- Macroeconomics (MRes and MSc), 2019–, University of Essex
- Macroeconomics (PhD), 2015, University of Oslo
- Money and Banking (Master), 2015–2018, University of Oslo
- Political Economy (Master), 2016–2018, University of Oslo
- Mathematics for Research Students (Master), 2015–2017, University of Oslo
- Mathematics for Research Students (PhD), 2010, 2013, University of Zurich

Student Supervision

PhD	Zhexin Feng (Essex, graduated in 2023)
	Devisri (Essex, ongoing)
	Razika Belhabib (Essex, ongoing)

Other Information

- Programming: Fortran, Matlab, Python, C++, Stata
- Name in Chinese: 王一凯