Kewei Benedict Xu

Northeastern University
Department of Economics
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Education

Ph.D. Economics, Northeastern University, 2029
    Sponsored Guest Ph.D. Economics, Massachusetts Institution of Technology, 2026
M.S. Social and Economic Policy, Northwestern University, 2025
M.S. Applied Economics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2025
B. S. Finance, minor Accounting, University of Sydney, 2022
    Exchange, Finance, Peking University, 2022

Research Interests

Labor economics, health economics, industry organization, finance, and machine learning applications

Working Papers

Taxing for Health: Early-Life Exposure to Cigarette Taxes and Later-Life Old-Age Disability and Mortality (2025) (with Hamid Noghanibehambari, Hoa Vu, Towhid Mahmood), *under review*, *Journal of Economics Aging*

Work in Progress

Fear and Friction: Immigration Enforcement, Unemployment, and Unemployment Insurance

Ghost Projects, Real Costs: How Unfinished Real Estate Shapes Local Economies

Top-down Campaign Styled Law Enforcement: Evidence from China's anti-Mafia Campaign

A Demand System Approach to Cryptocurrency ETFs: Institutional Flows, Price Elasticity, and Market Stability

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Northeastern University

ECON 1115: Principal of Macroeconomics, Summer 2026
ECON 3291: Development Economics, Spring 2026
ECON 2350: Statistics for Economists, Spring 2026
ECON 2560: Applied Econometrics, Fall 2025
ECON 5110: Microeconomics Theory, Fall 2025

Research Experience

Research Assistant to Prof. Jun Ma, Northeastern University, 2026, 2027
Research Assistant to Prof. Nishith Prakash, Northeastern University, 2026

Research Assistant to Prof. Wenzhi Ding (Dave), The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, 2025
Research Assistant to Prof. Hoa Vu, Northwestern University, 2024
Research Assistant to Dr. Wei Cui, the University of Syndey, 2022
Research Assistant to Prof. Lan Wang, Peking University, 2021

Honors & Awards

Vice Chancellor's Global Mobility Scholarship, University of Sydney, 2022
University of Sydney Business School Student Exchange Travel Scholarships, University of Sydney, 2021

Presentations & Conference Attended

MIT's Golub Center for Finance and Policy (GCFP) 13th Annual Conference, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2026
The 24th Annual International Industrial Organization Conference, Northeastern University, 2026
The Predoc Research Conference, World Bank Group, 2025
American Economic Association Annual Meeting (ASSA), San Francisco, 2025
Empirical Research on Standardization Conference, Northwestern University, 2024

Skills

Languages: Stata, Python, R, SQL, Tableau
Big Data & Machine Learning: Python (scikit-learn, numpy, pandas, matplotlib, pytorch, selenium)
Data Science & Miscellaneous: A/B testing, web crawler, ETL, data pipelines, statistics, time series, experimental design, hypothesis testing, causal inference, Excel, Git

Personal

Chinese citizenship
Languages: English, Mandarin, Japanese

Last updated: December, 2025