

Zhexun Mo

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Academic Appointments

Postdoctoral Scholar	
Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality, Graduate Center CUNY	2024–
East Asia Coordinator	
World Inequality Lab, Paris School of Economics	2022–

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Paris School of Economics	2024
M.A. in Economics, Paris School of Economics — <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> , Ranked 1 st	2019
B.A. in Economics, National University of Singapore — Honors with Distinction	2017
B.A. in Social Sciences, Sciences Po Paris — <i>Cum Laude</i>	2015

Fields of Interest

Primary Fields: Political Economics; Economic History; Development Economics

Secondary Fields: Public Economics; Applied Microeconomics

Job Market Paper

Soldiers versus Laborers: Legacies of Colonial Military Forced Labor in Mali (with Marion Richard and Ismaël Yacoubou Djima).

Publications

Human Capital, Unequal Opportunities and Productivity Convergence: A Global Historical Perspective, 1800–2100 (with Nitin Bharti, Amory Gethin, Thanasak Jenmana, Thomas Piketty, and Li Yang), *Forthcoming at Journal of Public Economics*.

Reform Windfall as Redistribution: A Survey Experiment on Redistributive Preferences in Contemporary China (with Margot Belguise, Nora Yuqian Chen, and Yuchen Huang), *European Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 87, April 2025.

Under Review

Enforcing Colonial Rule: Blood Tax and Head Tax in French West Africa (with Denis Cogneau), Under review at *Journal of Economic History*.

Equality and Development: A Comparative and Historical Perspective, 1800–2025 (with Thomas Piketty *et al.*), Under review at *American Economic Review*.

Working Papers

Ideological Shifts and Wealth Dynamics: Unraveling the Century-Long Accumulation of Chinese National Wealth, 1911–2020 (with Qing Wang, Li Yang, and Xiaojing Zhang).

Income Inequality in South Korea, 1933–2020: Evidence from Distributional National Accounts (with Sehyun Hong, Nak Nyeon Kim, and Li Yang). *Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality Working Paper Series, No. 113*.

Non-Meritocrats or Choice-Reluctant Meritocrats? A Redistribution Experiment in China and France (with Margot Belguise and Yuchen Huang). *Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality Working Paper Series, No. 93*.

When Facts Fail: Experimental Evidence on Perceptions and Preferences towards Chinese Investments in Germany (with Katharina Kaepfel, Carsten Schröder, and Li Yang). *Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality Working Paper Series, No. 115*.

The Great Unleveling: Long-Run Wealth Inequality in Korea, 1970–2023 (with Sehyun Hong and Jiwei Yang).

Twin Peaks of Capital: A Century of National Wealth and Inequality in Japan, 1905–2025 (with Mariko Hatase, Chiaki Moriguchi, and Li Yang).

Selected Work in Progress

Evolution of Capital Income Inequalities in China: Evidence from the China Household Income Project (CHIP), 1988–2023 (with Branko Milanovic, Li Yang, and Peng Zhan).

Consumption and Income Inequalities of the Bottom Billions in Asia (with Nitin Bharti, Sehyun Hong, Thanasak Jenmana, Jiangting Wang, and Li Yang).

Drawing the Line between Survey and Tax Data: Determinants of Income Misreporting in Korean Surveys (with Sehyun Hong, Dongwoong Seo, and Li Yang).

Non-Academic Publications

Is East Asia Becoming Plutocratic? Income and Wealth Inequalities in Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan (1981–2021) *World Inequality Lab Issue Brief No. 2022-11*.

Inequality Perceptions and Redistributive Preferences: Literature Review and Proposal for the KLIPS Supplementary Survey (with Sunoong Hwang and Li Yang). *Panel Data Quality Improvement Study (XIII), Sejong City, South Korea: Korea Labor Institute, 2023*.

Seminars & Conferences

2025: History and Inequality (Bocconi); Migration & Development (World Bank & AFD); LSE (III); Chinese Economic History (Nuffield, Oxford); WEHC (Lund); ICDE (Paris Nanterre); Comparative Inequality (LIS); EEA; CES-North America; ZEW (Mannheim); Economic History (PSE).

2024: CSAE (Oxford); Economic History Workshop (Uppsala); SEEDEC (NHH Bergen); GEOM (Bari); Stone Center Seminar (CUNY); NEUDC (Northeastern); CES-China; WIL (PSE).

2023: Economic History (PSE, twice); WIL (PSE); Applied Lunch (PSE); Internal Research Seminar (CASS); African Economic History Conference (Manchester).

2022: MPSA (Chicago); Development and Economic History Seminars (PSE).

2021: Workshop on African Economic History (Cambridge–LSE); Applied Lunch (PSE); Develop-

ment and Economic History Seminars (PSE).

Grants & Fellowships

\$46,000 Stone Center Research Grant	2024-2026
¥900,000 Joint Research Grant by Hitotsubashi University	
Long-run National Wealth in Japan	2025
€12,000 Research Grant by WIL – Long-run Inequalities in Asia	2023
¥900,000 × 2 Joint Research Grant by Hitotsubashi University	
Long-run Income Inequalities in Japan	2023
£15,000 Research Grant by STEG – Colonial Forced Labor in Mali	2022
€16,800 Research Grant by PSE Development, EUR PgSE and CEPREMAP	
Colonial Forced Labor in Mali	2022
€14,200 Research Grant by PSE Economic History, EUR PgSE and CEPREMAP	
Redistribution in China	2022
€72,000 Full Doctoral Fellowship PgSE	2019-2022
€20,000 ERASMUS European Union International Mobility Fellowship	2015-2017

Teaching & Research Experience

Teaching Assistant , PSE (Supervisor: Thomas Piketty)	2022–2024
Lecturer , Sciences Po Paris	2019–2021
Research Assistant , PSE (Supervisors: Karen Macours , Sylvie Lambert)	2018
Research Assistant , National University of Singapore (Supervisor: Davin Chor)	2017
Teaching Assistant , National University of Singapore (Supervisor: Nina Guyon)	2017

Referee Experience

Journal of Development Economics; Review of Income and Wealth; Applied Economics.

Languages & Skills

Languages: Chinese (native); English (fluent); French (fluent); Spanish (beginner).

Technical: Stata; R; Python; QGIS; L^AT_EX.

References

Denis Cogneau

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Branko Milanovic

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Thomas Piketty

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Janet Gornick

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