YAOTIAN (JUSTIN) ZHANG

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EDUCATION

University of Nebraska–Lincoln — Lincoln, NE, USA
Ph.D. in Economics — expected 2031

Central European University — Vienna, Austria
M.A. in Economics, Data, and Policy (Research Track) — 2026
Thesis supervisor: Sergey Lychagin

University of Macau — Macau, China
B.A. in Economics — 2024

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Public Economics

WORKING PAPERS

Green Borders: Cross-Border Enforcement Spillovers from Cannabis Legalization

WORK IN PROGRESS

Trying Again After Failure: Beliefs, Costs, and Persistence in a High-Stakes Exam
Place-Based College Admission and the Geography of Opportunity: Evidence from China

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Bureau of Business Research, University of Nebraska–Lincoln — 2026–present
Graduate Research Assistant to Eric Thompson

- Measure skills gaps and education–occupation mismatch across Nebraska labor markets using ACS microdata.

Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Macau — 2023–2024
Research Assistant

- Collected and cleaned data on online political content; replicated machine learning workflows in R.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Graduate Workshops on Causal Inference and Research Methods — Summer 2025
Hong Kong Metropolitan University

Teaching Assistant, Introductory R Programming — Spring 2024
Lui Che Woo College, University of Macau

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Carpenter Fellowship, College of Business, University of Nebraska–Lincoln — 2026
Graduate Research Assistantship, Department of Economics, University of Nebraska–Lincoln — 2026–2027
Dean's Honour List (top 10%), Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Macau — 2023, 2024

SKILLS

Programming: R, Stata, Python, LaTeX, ArcGIS
Languages: Mandarin Chinese (native), English (fluent)