

# SHEN Zekai

📍 11-02, A Tower, 21 Telok Blangah Dr, Singapore 109258    ✉ zekai\_99@nus.edu.sg    ☎ 87772784  
🔗 kororinpas.github.io    in Zekai SHEN    🔄 Kororinpas

## Education

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| <b>Singapore Management University</b><br><i>Master of Science in Economics (Econometrics and Quantitative Economics)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ GPA: 4.0/4.0</li><li>◦ <b>Award:</b> Dean's List</li></ul> | <i>Aug, 2023 - Aug, 2024</i> |
| <b>Shanghai University</b><br><i>Bachelor of Economics</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ GPA: 87.28/100</li><li>◦ <b>Award:</b> Excellent Graduation Thesis</li></ul>  | <i>Aug, 2018 - Aug, 2022</i> |

## Research Interests

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Political Economy, Environment Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Scientometrics, Deep Learning/ Machine Learning in Economics

## Publications

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- [Economic Voting Behavior: The Peak-end Growth Rule \(With Jin Yiyang, Dong Yuanyuan, Liu Yazhou\), \*Economics & Politics\* 2024](#) [🔗](#)

## Working Papers

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- Does a Political Carbon Emission Cycle in China exist? (With He He, John Boland)
  - Attraction is all you need: The Impact of Eye-Catching Titles on Publication Success and Citation Rates in Economics

## Work in Progress

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- Cheat and Get Promoted: The Political GDP Manipulation Cycle in China

## Research Experience

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| <b>Full-Time Research Assistant</b><br><i>Under Karsten Muller, NUS Business School, National University of Singapore</i> | <i>Singapore</i><br><i>Aug, 2024 - Present</i> |
|---|--|
- The Global Industrial Policy Race: Evidence from Export Credits***
- Conducted data collection and analysis from OECD, BIS, and External Data Hub databases, identifying bilateral export credit data. Integrated this data with export credit records published by national export-import banks and Chinese export credit information from the AidDataset.
  - Utilized descriptive statistics and visualizations to map the structure of the global export credit market, assessing its role within industrial policy.
  - Contributed to empirical modeling to examine the impact of the U.S. Export-Import Bank shutdown on global export credit market dynamics and evaluated the influence of geopolitical factors in shaping export credit policies.
- The Global Macro Project***
- Built a comprehensive global macroeconomic database spanning over 200 years, covering key macroeconomic indicators.
  - Gathered data from diverse sources, including academic papers, yearbooks, and databases, converting and consolidating these into consistent long-term macroeconomic time series.

- Managed data processing across various sources, ensuring compatibility and accuracy for seamless integration into a unified dataset.

### **Part-Time Research Assistant**

*Singapore*

*Under Aljoscha Janssen, School of Economics, Singapore Management University May, 2024 - Aug, 2024*

- Employed Python's Scrapy framework alongside the Wayback Machine to extract historical and current data on major pharmaceuticals, including pricing, dosage, and additional relevant information
- Developed and optimized scraping scripts to ensure comprehensive data retrieval, handling dynamic content and various data formats across pharmaceutical company websites.

### **Part-Time Research Assistant**

*Singapore*

*Under Xuan Zhang, School of Economics, Singapore Management University Sep, 2023 - Jan, 2024*

- Utilized Python's Selenium and Playwright libraries to scrape hospital rating information from various Chinese hospital website, performing data matching to reconcile discrepancies in hospital names across datasets.
- Conducted text analysis on judicial data from the China Judgments Online database to identify and extract cases involving medical corruption, compiling and quantifying instances to support research on healthcare integrity.

## **Working Experience**

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### **Co-founders**

*China/Singapore*

*AI SocioEconomic Frontier [MVP Stage]*

*May 2023 – Jul 2024*

- Co-Founded a startup that uses AI to make social science research simpler.
- Project lead on drafting initial code and developing AI software for social science research writing base on Large Language Models such as ChatGPT.
- Assisted in building the backend infrastructure and developing demos
- Engaged with VCs and created the Business Plan and Pitch
- Selected into Business Innvoations Generator (BIG) Incubator, Singapore Management University, 2024
- Enter the interview round in MiraclePlus Accelerator / Zhen Found
- KWANPEN Postgraduate Summer Venture Awards, Singapore Management University, 2024

### **Teaching Assistant**

*Shanghai, China*

*School of Economics, Shanghai University*

*Aug 2022 – Jul 2023*

- Teaching Assistant in Master of Finance Programme, 2022

## **Awards**

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- Dean's List, Academic Year 2023-2024, School of Economics, Singapore Management University 2024
- KWANPEN Postgraduate Summer Venture Awards, Singapore Management University 2024
- Honorable Mentions in Generative your AI Library Hackathon, Singapore Management University 2023
- Third prize in the First National Large Language Model Innovation and Creative Application Competition in China 2023
- Excellent Graduation Thesis, Shanghai University 2023
- First Prize of the 3rd Undergraduate Academic Forum of SHU, Shanghai University 2021

## **Computational skills**

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### **Python**

- Web Scraping: Playwright; Requests
- Data Processing: Pandas/Numpy/Matplotlib
- Regression Analysis: Statsmodels/Linearmodels
- Machine Learning: Scikit-learn/Xgboost/Lightgbm

- Demo: Streamlit/Gradio
- AI/Deep Learning: PyTorch/Langchain/Transformers/Wandb
- Web Developing: Flask

### **Stata/R**

- OLS/GLS/Logit/Probit
- IV/FE
- DID/Synthetic Control Method

### **NLP**

- Finetuning PLM: Roberta/Bert/T5/GPT2
- Finetuning LLM: Lora/PPO tuning LLAMA
- RAG: Langchain

### **LaTeX/Overleaf**

### **Javascript**

## **Language Skills**

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- **IELTS:** Listening: 8.0; Reading: 7.5; Writing: 7.0; Speaking: 6.0
- **GRE:** Verbal: 158; Quant: 167