Yingfei Mu

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Education

Johns Hopkins University — Baltimore, MD
Ph.D., Economics, expected 2027
M.A., Economics, 2025

University of Oregon — Eugene, OR
M.S., Economics, 2021

North Dakota State University — Fargo, ND
Ph.D., Statistics, 2015

Beijing Normal University — Beijing, China
M.S., Probability and Mathematical Statistics, 2011
B.S., Statistics, 2008

Research Interests

Microeconomic Theory, Information Economics; Environmental Economics

Research

Job Market Paper

Competition and Punishment in Expert Markets

This paper studies how punishment affects expert misconduct when detecting fraud requires conflicting recommendations from competing providers. Stronger penalties can sustain honest advice without eliminating fraudulent equilibria and can increase fraud and prices. Expected punishment remains bounded even as nominal penalties grow arbitrarily large.

Working Papers

Information Differentiation under Correlation Neglect

With Xinyang Wang. Submitted.

Correlation neglect can induce providers to differentiate. Consumers who neglect correlation when updating but correctly assess learning efficiency prefer both sources only below a correlation cutoff. To retain these consumers, the less accurate provider must sufficiently differentiate its information, creating an equilibrium cap on correlation that improves learning whenever it lowers correlation.

Work in Progress

Strategic Over-Prevention

With Brendan Daley.

Publications

What's Missing in Environmental Self-Monitoring: Evidence from Strategic Shutdowns of Pollution Monitors

With Edward Rubin and Eric Yongchen Zou.
The Review of Economics and Statistics, 108(3): 597–612, 2026.

Presentations

Theory Seminar, Johns Hopkins University, 2024, 2025, and 2026.

Teaching

Teaching Assistant, Johns Hopkins University

Graduate Micro Theory II, Spring 2026.

Microeconomic Theory, Spring 2025.

Mathematical Thinking and Reasoning in Economics, Fall 2024 and Fall 2025.

Elements of Microeconomics, Spring 2024.

Undergraduate Game Theory, Fall 2023.

Professional Service

Organizer, Theory Brownbag, Johns Hopkins University, 2024–2025.

Referee Service

The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance; *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management.*

Honors and Awards

T. Rowe Price Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University, 2021–2023.

Graduate Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University, 2021–2027.

Graduate Fellowship, Beijing Normal University, 2008–2011.

University Scholarship, Beijing Normal University: First Class, 2005 and 2006; Second Class, 2007.

Skills

Computing	Python, R
Languages	Mandarin (native), English (fluent), Japanese (beginner)

References

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Scott and Barbara Black Professor of Economics
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