

## WENLIANG LI

Ph.D. graduate in Economics  
LEDa, Paris Dauphine University - PSL  
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### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Structural Change, Industrial Transition, Productivity Growth, Trade, Regional Disparities, Income Convergence, Labour

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### EDUCATION

#### Paris Dauphine University - PSL

Ph.D. in Economics Oct. 2018 — Oct. 2024

- Thesis: *Structural Change, Economic Growth and Regional Disparities in Post-reform China*
- Supervisors: Lise Patureau, Gilles Saint-Paul (Paris School of Economics)
- Jury members: Jérôme Héricourt, Sandra Poncet, Guillaume Daudin, Xiaobing Wang

Master (M2) in International Economics and Development Sep. 2017 — Jun. 2018

#### Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University

Master (M1) in Applied Economics Sep. 2016 — Jun. 2017

#### Peking University

B.S. in Economics, B.A. in French Language and Literature Sep. 2012 — Jun. 2016

#### University of Lausanne

Exchange study Feb. 2015 — Jun. 2015

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### PUBLICATION

“Structural Change, Labour Reallocation and Productivity Growth in Post-reform China” (2024), *Oxford Economic Papers*, Volume 76, Issue 4, October 2024, Pages 1147–1167, <https://doi.org/10.1093/oenp/gpae008>

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### JOB MARKET PAPER

“Comparative Advantage, Endowment Structure and Regional Specialization in China” (submitted to *China Economic Review*)

This paper quantifies the roles of classical trade determinants in shaping the sectoral specialization patterns across Chinese provinces. It constructs a panel database covering factor inputs and production disaggregated across 32 sectors in 31 provinces from 1993 to 2016. Empirical measures of specialization and classical trade determinants are constructed based on a partial equilibrium model, explaining provincial specialization across multi-sectors by both Ricardian and Heckscher-Ohlin (HO) predictions. Empirical evidence indicates that provincial specialization is primarily driven by Ricardian TFP advantage rather than by HO endowment condition. Moreover, the Ricardian effect is stronger than the inertia effect in structural transition, implying that regional specialization in China is self-adjusting rather than path-dependent.

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### WORKING PAPER

“Structural Change and Regional Income Inequality: Evidence from China” (with Lise Patureau)

This paper examines the impact of structural change on income convergence across Chinese provinces from 1993 to 2016. Using a simple model that decomposes income per capita growth into three components—the within-sector TFP growth rate, capital deepening, and cross-sector reallocation effects of labor and capital (i.e., structural change)—we quantify the contribution of each factor to the income convergence process among Chinese provinces. Three main findings emerge. First, we find evidence of both unconditional convergence (between Chinese provinces) and conditional convergence (within each province). Yet, unconditional convergence occurs at a much slower pace than conditional convergence. Second, structural change plays a significant role in the catch-up process. Productive labor reallocation enhances convergence, especially within provinces. In particular, reducing the agricultural employment share promotes the catch-up process, especially the unconditional one, particularly when it is accompanied by an increase in the manufacturing employment share. In contrast, reallocating workers to the service sector does not facilitate sustained growth or catch-up. Third, and unlike structural change, within-sector TFP growth hinders the catch-up process, both unconditionally and conditionally. These findings offer important policy implications for achieving a more balanced growth trajectory in China.

## CONFERENCE

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2025 ADRES Job Market Conference (*forthcoming*)  
2024 DIAL internal seminar (Paris Dauphine University)  
2024 Workshop “Innovation and Productivity Growth in China” (Manchester China Institute)  
2023 DIAL internal seminar (Paris Dauphine University)  
2023 European Trades Studies Group Conference (ETSG)  
2023 Chinese Economists Society North America Conference (CES)  
2022 Asian Economic Development Conference (AEDC)  
2022 French Association on Economic Science Congress (AFSE)  
2022 JDD internal seminar (Paris Dauphine University)  
2021 Globalization and Development Conference (GlaD)  
2020 European Economic Association Congress (EEA)

## REFEREE

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Oxford Economic Papers  
EAYE Annual Meeting (European Association of Young Economists)

## TEACHING

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### Paris Dauphine University - PSL

Open-Economy Macroeconomics	Spring 2018 — Spring 2024
Introduction to Microeconomics	Fall 2019
Economics of Uncertainty	Fall 2018

## ACADEMIC POSITION

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### Paris Dauphine University - PSL

Teaching and Research Fellow (ATER/vacataire)	Oct. 2018 — Jun. 2024
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## NON-ACADEMIC POSITION

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### UNESCO, Paris

Language Service Assistant (external)	Oct. 2016 — Nov. 2021
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### China Center for Economic Research, Beijing

Research Assistant (intern)	Feb. 2016 — Jul. 2016
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## LANGUAGE

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English - professional  
French - professional  
Chinese - native

## IT SKILLS

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Stata, SAS, GAMS, Excel, VBA, R, Python, LaTeX, C++

## REFERENCES

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