

# Lena Shi

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## EDUCATION

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- 2017-2023 **Harvard University**, Ph.D. in Education Policy & Program Evaluation  
Title: Essays on College Student Outcomes and Inequality  
Committee: Bridget Long, David Deming, Christopher Avery, and Susan Dynarski
- 2009-2014 **University of Virginia**, Master of Public Policy (M.P.P) & Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- 2024- **University of California Irvine**, Assistant Professor of Education Policy
- 2023-2024 **Harvard University**, Visiting Scholar

## POLICY POSITIONS

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- 2015-2016 **The White House**, Policy Advisor
- 2014, 2017 **U.S. Department of Education**, Researcher & Presidential Management Fellow

## RESEARCH AREAS

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Economics of education, higher education policy, inequality, college student success, college access

## PUBLICATIONS

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Shi, L. (2023) “Clearing Up Transfer Admissions Standards: Impact on Access and Success” *Journal of Human Resources*, <https://doi.org/10.3368/jhr.0721-11774R2>

## WORKING PAPERS

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- “Do College Faculty Affect Students’ Long-Term Achievement? Evidence from Developmental Courses”
- “Average and heterogeneous effects of political party on state education finance and outcomes: Regression discontinuity evidence across U.S. election cycles” (with Mark Chin)
- “Navigating the ‘Option’ in Test-Optional: Evidence from the Common Application” (with Christopher Avery and Preston Magouirk)

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

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- “Addressing Implicit Bias of College Faculty” (with Michela Carlana and David Deming)
- “Certainty and Application Choices: Evidence from Guaranteed College Admissions”
- “SNAP for College Students and Educational Attainment” (with Monnica Chan)

## POLICY BRIEFS (after 2017)

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Shi, L. (2023) More transparent admissions standards can help students transfer to highly selective colleges. *The Brookings Institution Brown Center Blog*, December 5, 2023.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS (Selected list)

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2021	National Academy of Education / Spencer Dissertation Fellow
2021	Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) New Scholar Award
2021	AEI / Fordham Institute Emerging Education Policy Scholar
2019	Harvard Kennedy School Distinction in Teaching
2018-21	Institute for Education Sciences Pre-Doctoral Fellow
2017	National Science Foundation Fellowship Honorable Mention
2017	Harvard Presidential Scholar
2014-16	Presidential Management Fellow
2013	Deloitte Foundation Fellow
2013	Up to Us National Winner, awarded by President Bill Clinton

## GRANTS (selected list)

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2022	<b>American Education Research Association (AERA) / National Science Foundation</b> Research Grant. “Social Benefits & College Affordability: the SNAP Impact on College Student Success” ( <i>with M. Chan</i> ) \$35,000
2022	<b>Russell Sage Foundation</b> Pipeline Grant. “Evaluating the Role of SNAP in Closing Gaps in Educational Opportunity and Attainment” ( <i>with M. Chan</i> ) \$30,000
2022	<b>Harvard Graduate School of Education</b> Doctoral Research Grant (x2). \$5,000
2022	<b>Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS) Jeanne Block Memorial Fund</b> Dissertation Grant. \$2,000
2021	<b>Spencer Foundation</b> Small Research Grant. “Effects of Banning the Box in College Admissions” ( <i>with D. Yu &amp; M. Freeman</i> ) \$50,000
2021	<b>Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences (IQSS)</b> Doctoral Research Grant. \$2,550
2020	<b>Franklin Delano Roosevelt Foundation</b> Research Assistance Grant. \$3,000

- 2019 **J-PAL State & Local Innovation Initiative** Grant. “Addressing Implicit Bias of Higher Education Faculty.” (*with M. Carlana & D. Deming*) \$50,000
- 2019 **Harvard Foundations of Human Behavior** Research Grant. “Addressing Implicit Bias of Higher Education Faculty.” (*with M. Carlana & D. Deming*) \$40,000

## **ACADEMIC & POLICY PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2024 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Virginia Longitudinal Data System Convening
- 2023 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), University of California Irvine School of Education, University of Virginia Frank Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy, University of Georgia School of Education, University of Texas at Austin School of Education (invited), Harvard Graduate School of Education
- 2022 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP), National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation
- 2021 American Educational Research Association (AERA), State Higher Education Executive Officers’ (SHEEO) Public Funding for Higher Education Convening, Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP), Harvard Labor/Public Economics Workshop
- 2020 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP), Virginia Community College System Chancellor’s Retreat (Keynote), Harvard Kennedy School Conference on Poverty and Inequality (Panel Moderator), Harvard Labor/Public Economics Workshop
- 2019 Virginia College Presidents’ Convening, Virginia Community College Chancellor’s Retreat (Plenary Speaker)
- Pre-2017 U.S. Department of Education Technical Review Panel: College Scorecard (Presenter); White House Convening for Teach for America’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Panelist); White House Convening for 100Kin10 STEM Teaching Convening (Panelist); Peter G. Peterson Foundation Fiscal Summit (Panelist); Clinton Global Initiative University (Plenary Speaker)

## **TEACHING**

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### **University of California, Irvine**

- 2025 Educational Policy & Politics  
School of Education: Ph.D. students
- 2025 Controversies in the College Landscape  
School of Education: Undergraduate students

## **Harvard University**

2020, 2019 Teaching Fellow for Raj Chetty: Using Big Data to Solve Economic & Social Problems  
Economics Department: Master's and Undergraduate students

2019 Teaching Fellow for David Deming: Causes & Consequences of Inequality  
Harvard Kennedy School: M.P.P. and Ph.D. students

## **University of Virginia**

2013-2014 Instructor of Public Policy Writing  
University of Virginia Batten School: Undergraduate students

## **CLEARANCES AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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U.S. Census Bureau Special Sworn Status  
American Educational Research Association  
Association for Education Finance and Policy  
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management