

LENA SHI

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2024- **University of California, Irvine**, Assistant Professor of Education Policy

2023-2024 **Harvard University**, Visiting Scholar

POLICY POSITIONS

2015-2016 **The White House**, Policy Advisor

2014, 2017 **U.S. Department of Education**, Researcher & Presidential Management Fellow

EDUCATION

2017-2023 **Harvard University**, Ph.D. in Education Policy & Program Evaluation

Dissertation Title: Essays on College Student Outcomes and Inequality

Committee: Bridget Long, David Deming, Christopher Avery, & Susan Dynarski

2012-2014 **University of Virginia**, Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.)

2009-2013 **University of Virginia**, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

RESEARCH AREAS

Economics of education, higher education policy, labor economics, college access & outcomes

PUBLICATIONS

[“Clearing Up Transfer Admissions Standards: Impact on Access and Success.”](#) *Journal of Human Resources*, Forthcoming.

[“Average and heterogeneous effects of political party on state education finance and outcomes: Regression discontinuity evidence across U.S. election cycles.”](#) (with Mark Chin), *Economics of Education Review*, Forthcoming.

WORKING PAPERS

- “Do College Faculty Affect Students’ Long-Term Achievement? Evidence from Developmental Courses”
- “Navigating the ‘Option’ in Test-Optional: Evidence from the Common Application” (with Christopher Avery and Preston Magouirk)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- “Addressing Implicit Bias of College Faculty” (with Michela Carlana and David Deming)
- “SNAP, Educational Attainment, and Student Mobility” (with Monnica Chan)

POLICY BRIEFS (after 2017)

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

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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)

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

2020	Franklin Delano Roosevelt Foundation Research Assistance Grant. \$3,000
2019	J-PAL State & Local Innovation Initiative Grant. "Addressing Implicit Bias of Higher Education Faculty." (with M. Carlan & D. Deming) \$50,000
2019	Harvard Foundations of Human Behavior Research Grant. "Addressing Implicit Bias of Higher Education Faculty." (with M. Carlan & D. Deming) \$40,000

ACADEMIC & POLICY PRESENTATIONS

2025	Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP), American Educational Research Association (AERA), the City University of New York (CUNY) Higher Education Research Seminar Series
2024	Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) presenter and discussant, 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 (declined due to timing), 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	White House Convening for Teach for America's 25 th Anniversary (Panelist); White House Convening for 100Kin10 STEM Teaching Convening (Panelist); U.S. Department of Education Technical Review Panel: College Scorecard (Presenter); Peter G. Peterson Foundation Fiscal Summit (Panelist); Clinton Global Initiative University (Plenary Speaker)

TEACHING

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

SERVICE

Refereed articles for: Journal of Human Resources, Economics of Education Review, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Education Economics

Reviewer for: APPAM Conference

CLEARANCES AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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