

Yuwei Zhang

Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Public Administration and International Affairs
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs
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EDUCATION

- 2027** **Ph.D. (expected)**, *Syracuse University, Maxwell School* – Public Administration
Field Specializations: Policy Process; Public Finance
Dissertation Title: Three Essays Spanning Household Food Spending, Food Bank
Finances, and Food Bank Decision-Making
Committee: Saba Siddiki (Chair), Tomás Olivier, Minjung Kim
- 2022** **M.P.A.**, *Brown University* – Public Affairs
- 2021** **B.A.**, *Wake Forest University* – Sociology, *magna cum laude*

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Food security and food assistance policy; public policy process; public finance management; tax policy; nonprofit finance and management; public administration and democracy; fiscal shocks and crisis response

PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS

Research Briefs

Zhang, Yuwei, Jun Li, Dongmei Zuo, and Colleen Heflin. (2024). “Adopting the Standard Medical Deduction Increased State SNAP Enrollment and Benefits.” *CPR Policy Brief Series*, No. 10. Center for Policy Research, Syracuse University. Also issued in the Lerner Center *Population Health Research Brief Series* (April 2024).
<https://surface.syr.edu/cpr/484/>

Manuscripts under Review or in Progress

- Zhang, Yuwei**. “Cigarette Taxes and Food Spending: Evidence from Single Middle-Aged Men.” *Under review*.
- Zhang, Yuwei**. “Punctuated Stability? Expenditure Allocation Patterns in Regional Food Banks.” *Working paper*.
- Zhang, Yuwei**. “Who Decides What Moves? Budget Decisions in Regional Food Banks.” *Working paper*.
- Zhang, Yuwei**, Jian Zhang, and Shaoqing Zhang. “Flood Damage, Flood Insurance, and the Fiscal Health of County Governments.” *Working paper*.

RESEARCH FUNDING

Birkhead–Burkhead Graduate Research Apprenticeship, Syracuse University, May 2026

Birkhead–Burkhead Graduate Research Apprenticeship, Syracuse University, May 2025

Birkhead–Burkhead Graduate Research Apprenticeship, Syracuse University, May 2024

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA. November 19–21, 2026 (scheduled).

Zhang, Yuwei. “Punctuated Stability? Expenditure Allocation Patterns in Regional Food Banks.”

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Annual Fall Research Conference. Boston, MA. November 5–7, 2026 (scheduled).

Zhang, Yuwei. “Punctuated Stability? Expenditure Allocation Patterns in Regional Food Banks.”

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Annual Fall Research Conference. Seattle, WA. November 13–15, 2025.

Zhang, Yuwei. “Cigarette Taxes and Food Spending: Evidence from Single Middle-Aged Men.”

National Tax Association (NTA) Annual Conference on Taxation. Boston, MA. November 6–8, 2025.

Zhang, Yuwei. “Cigarette Taxes and Food Spending: Evidence from Single Middle-Aged Men.”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Syracuse University

Department of Public Administration and International Affairs, Maxwell School

Graduate

Leadership and Public Policy (PAI 753), Teaching Assistant. Summer 2026

Introduction to Statistics (PAI 721), Teaching Assistant. Fall 2025

Economics for Public Decisions (PAI 723), Teaching Assistant. Fall 2025

Public Budgeting (PAI 734), Teaching Assistant. Summer 2025

Public Policy and Program Evaluation (PAI 774), Teaching Assistant. Spring 2025

Public Administration and Democracy (PAI 755), Teaching Assistant. Summer 2024

Public Organizations and Management (PAI 712), Teaching Assistant. Fall 2023

Undergraduate

Follow the Money: Key Issues in Illicit Finance (PAI 485), Teaching Assistant. Fall 2026

Lectures and Sessions Led

- Independently designed and led Stata lab sessions (PAI 721, Fall 2025).
- Led daily labs and three final exam review sessions (PAI 734, Summer 2025).
- Led daily 90-minute discussion sections for 25 students (PAI 755, Summer 2024).
- Designed and co-delivered two lectures on policy evaluation and implementation, and led class discussions every other week (PAI 712, Fall 2023).

Course Development Support

- Assisted faculty in preparing course materials, including grading rubrics, answer keys, Stata exercises, exam review materials, and statistical analysis and public budgeting guides (PAI 721 and 723, Fall 2025; PAI 734, Summer 2025; PAI 774, Spring 2025).
- Assisted faculty in drafting teaching plans and setting up online learning platforms (PAI 755, Summer 2024), and in designing the course structure (PAI 712, Fall 2023).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Associate Jan 2025 – Present
Center for Policy Design and Governance, Syracuse University

Graduate Research Associate Aug 2023 – Present
Center for Policy Research, Syracuse University

Graduate Research Associate Aug 2023 – Present
East Asia Program, Syracuse University

Research Assistant Intern Aug 2022 – May 2023
Duke University School of Medicine

- Managed and analyzed data for the project “Returns on Investment from Produce Prescriptions to Low-Income Patients for Accelerating Payment Reform” under the supervision of Dr. Ashley Price; the findings will inform how public and private payers include produce prescriptions in standard healthcare delivery and reimbursement.
- Conducted literature reviews for Dr. Hanzhang Xu’s project, “Developing an Intervention for Cognitive Training That Is Culturally and Linguistically Relevant to Older Chinese Americans.”

Graduate Research Projects Jun 2021 – Dec 2021
Brown University

- “Policy Solutions for Food Insecurity in Providence, RI”: Collected primary data from local and national nonprofit organizations and delivered three policy solutions, with a detailed five-year implementation plan, to the Rhode Island Department of Health.
- “Enhancing Civic Engagement in Elections”: Conducted systematic literature reviews and wrote an evidence-based memo proposing three strategies to address low voter turnout in Hawaii.

Undergraduate Research Assistant Jan 2020 – Jun 2020
Wake Forest University

- Collected data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), organized research datasets, and constructed variables for statistical models used in prediction and data validation.
- Built test models under the supervision of the sociology department chair to examine whether adopting a test-optional admissions policy makes a U.S. college’s student body and faculty more racially and ethnically diverse.

SERVICE

University Service

Graduate Student Advisory Council, Syracuse University

Maxwell School Representative. Fall 2026 – Spring 2027

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action

National Tax Association

Alpha Kappa Delta (International Sociology Honor Society)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Analyst Intern

Jul 2022 – May 2023

Financial Network Analytics

- Collected and validated multi-source data on international organizations, financial authorities, financial market infrastructures, and their linkages to build a global financial network.

Strategy Consulting Intern

Jan 2022 – Apr 2022

Milken Institute

- Analyzed proprietary grant and prize program data and wrote a memo to the institute's DEI team recommending evidence-based inclusion and equity metrics to ensure diverse perspectives are valued in its philanthropic investments in biomedical research.
- Led literature reviews on how diversity and inclusion practices affect the scientific enterprise and innovation, and applied the findings to highlight the institute's current priorities, initiatives, and policies.

Market Research Intern

May 2020 – Aug 2020

Nielsen

- Conducted competitive and market-opportunity research and presented findings in 16 weekly reports to the market strategy associate manager.
- Analyzed Unilever's sales performance data, prepared more than 20 data visualizations, and compiled three monthly reports evaluating its deployment of salespersons to designated stores across five regions in China.

SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Statistical Software and Programming: Stata, R, Python

Geospatial: ArcGIS Pro

AI-Assisted Coding: ChatGPT Codex, Claude Code

Languages: English, Mandarin Chinese, and Cantonese (native proficiency); Spanish and Korean (elementary proficiency)