Fengyi Zhang

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Current Positions

Research Assistant June 2026 – Present
University of Victoria, Victoria, BC
Supervised by: Dr. Herbert Schuetze
Description: I support several research projects by managing vetted data, contributing to analysis, and conducting targeted literature reviews. I also help coordinate UVic RDC operations by verifying researcher affiliations, arranging facility repair requests, and communicating regularly with RDC analysts.

Research Assistant October 2025 – Present
University of Victoria, Victoria, BC
Supervised by: Dr. Justin C. Wiltshire
Description: I am a research assistant and co-author on "The Impact of International Students on Canadian Labour and Housing Markets," contributing to data preparation, linkage, and analysis. Through this work, I have developed proficiency in managing administrative microdata and linking records across datasets within the secure RDC environment.

Education

Ph.D., Economics Sep 2025 – Present
University of Victoria, Victoria, BC

M.A., Economics Awarded 2025
University of Victoria, Victoria, BC

B.A., Economics with Distinction Awarded 2020
University of Victoria, Victoria, BC

Research Interests

Labour Economics, Immigration, Microeconomics, Health Economics

Scholarships and Awards

University of Victoria Graduate Award Jul 2023
Davison Graduate Scholarship in Economics Mar 2023

Membership

Canadian Economics Association Feb 2026 - Present

Working papers

"The Changing Relationship between Economic Conditions and Opioid Mortality" (with M. Christopher Auld, October 2026)

"Tracking Canada's Population, Immigration, Labour and Housing Market Trends: The Canadian Population, Immigration and Markets (CPIM) Interactive Dashboard" (with Tyler Stigall and Justin C. Wiltshire, September 2026)

Work in progress

"Playing with Fire: The Unintended Consequences of Logging Restrictions in the Northern Spotted Owl Habitat" (with Natalia Orlova and Justin C. Wiltshire)

"The Impact of International Students on Canadian Labour and Housing Markets" (with Justin C. Wiltshire, Alaa Abdelfattah, Wifag Adnan, and Jason Hicks)

Presentations

The 60th Annual Meetings of the Canadian Economics Association — May 2026
Work presented: The Changing Relationship between Economic Conditions and Opioid Mortality

UVic Economics Brown Bag — Mar 2026
Work presented: The Changing Relationship between Economic Conditions and Opioid Mortality

UVic on the Peninsula Public Lecture — Mar 2026
Work presented: The Economic Impacts of Canada's Changing Immigration Policy

Teaching experience

Sessional Instructor — Jan 2024 – Apr 2024
University of Victoria, Victoria, BC
Course: ECON 245 Descriptive Statistics and Probability

Teaching Assistant — Sep 2020 – Jun 2021; Sep 2022 – April 2026
University of Victoria, Victoria, BC
Courses: Principles of Microeconomics, Intermediate Microeconomics, Writing for Economists, Money and Banking, Applied Econometrics, Econometric Analysis

Teaching Assistant Consultant — Aug 2023 – Apr 2024
University of Victoria, Victoria, BC

Professional Experience

Statistical Analyst — May 2024 – Jan 2025
B.C. Ministry of Education and Child Care, Victoria, BC

- Conducted a comprehensive literature review on teacher-related topics and designed survey instruments to support the development of the Ministry's new teacher survey.

- Built a province-wide cohort analysis linking Student Learning Survey and administrative records to track and identify drivers of student outcomes; findings informed discussions with 200+ ministry staff and B.C. school district superintendents.
- Developed a cohort-tracking dashboard using Power BI and SQL, replacing ad hoc data requests with self-serve access to student outcome trends and findings for the Ministry's analytics team.

Junior Information Analyst Sep 2023 – Dec 2023

B.C. Pension Corporation, Victoria, BC

- Streamlined complex, confidential pension member and privacy-breach datasets into a Power BI dashboard, improving monitoring of privacy risk trends.
- Conducted a privacy impact assessment of a corporate survey, identifying three potential risks to employee data and recommending mitigations.