

**JULIE Y. CAI**  
Center for Economic and Policy Research  
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## **FIELDS OF STUDY**

Economic instability; Social policy; Inequality and poverty;  
Low- and middle-income working families and children.

## **EDUCATION**

- Ph.D. University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, WI, 2017 – 2021  
Social Welfare (minor in Public Affairs from La Follette); Advisor: Lonnie Berger
- M.S.W. Columbia University, New York, NY, 2016  
Concentration: Social Policy and Practice; Advisor: Irv Garfinkel
- MSc University College London, London, UK, 2014  
Urban Studies (Housing Preservation and Urban Regeneration; Urban Policy)
- B.A. Zhejiang University of Media and Communications (ZUMC), Hangzhou, CHN,  
2013 Communication Studies; *Cum Laude, Dean's List (2010-2013)*
- Visiting Student University of California Riverside, Riverside, CA, Sept 2011–Dec 2011  
Media and Political Communications

## **EMPLOYMENT**

- 2020– Economist, Center for Economic and Policy Research, Washington DC
- 2022– Visiting Fellow, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Boston MA
- 2020–2021 Lecturer, Columbia University, New York NY
- 2017–2019 Research Assistant and Project Assistant, Institute for Research on Poverty,  
University of Wisconsin, Madison WI
- 2016–2017 Research Assistant, Columbia Population Research Center, New York NY

## **AFFILIATION**

- 2022– Columbia University Center on Poverty and Social Policy

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### Journal Articles

- Cai, J. Y. (2021). Economic instability and child maltreatment risk: Evidence from state administrative data. *Child Abuse & Neglect* special issue focused on income inequality and child protection (forthcoming).
- Wang, J. S. H., Cai, Y., & Gao, Q. (2021). How effective are social safety net programs in reducing poverty risks? A comparative study of Taiwan and Southeast China. *Journal of Asian Public Policy*, 1-36. (previously published under the name Yixia Cai)
- Cai, Y., & Smeeding, T. (2020). Deep and extreme child poverty in rich and poor nations: Lessons from Atkinson for the fight against child poverty. *Italian Economic Journal*, 6(1), 109-128.
- Cai, Y., & Evans, M. (2018). Informal transfers in comparisons of income distributions: Lessons from rich and middle-income countries. *Journal of Income Distribution*, 26(2), 1-20.

## Articles under Review or In Progress

Cai, J. Y., Wimer, C., & Berger L. “Intra-year employment instability and the response of the safety net among urban households.”

Slack, K., Berger, L., Reilly, A., Reynders, R., & Cai, J. Y. “Results from a multisite randomized control trial of community response: Serving families deflected from child protective services systems.”

Cai, J. Y. “Work hours instability and child poverty”

Cai, J. Y. “Work-hours volatility among American working families.”

Slack, K., Berger, L., Reilly, A., Reynders, R., & Cai, J. Y. “Preventing child protective services system involvement by asking families what they need: Findings from a multi-site RCT of the Community Response Program.”

Cai, J. Y., Garfinkel, I., Neckerman, K., & Wimer, C. “Housing assistance, poverty, and material hardship.”

Berger, L., Cai, J. Y., Cancian, M., Chen, Y., Groves, L., & Meyer, D. R. “Family fluidity and economic resources.”

Cai, J. Y., Evans, M., & Gornick, J. “Simulating the effects of maternal employment growth on children’s economic well-being in upper middle-income countries.”

## Memo/Report and Other Publications (selected) \*indicates research intern

“Family policies in the Build Back Better Act would reduce burdens on families and provide a better buffer to economic instability.” December 2021. (with Algernon Austin). <https://cepr.net/family-policies-in-the-build-back-better-act-would-reduce-burdens-on-families-and-provide-a-better-buffer-to-economic-instability/>

“Native Americans need to be included in annual Census reports on income and poverty.” November 2021. (with Shawn Fremstad). <https://cepr.net/native-americans-need-to-be-included-in-annual-census-reports-on-income-and-poverty/>

“Home health care: Latinx and Black women are overrepresented, but all women face heightened risk of poverty.” October 2021. (with Anaïs Goubert\* and Eileen Appelbaum). <https://cepr.net/home-health-care-latinx-and-black-women-are-overrepresented-but-all-women-face-heightened-risk-of-poverty/>

“Black and Asian American workers falling behind in getting back jobs.” September 2021 (with Dean Baker). <https://cepr.net/black-and-asian-american-workers-falling-behind-in-getting-back-jobs/>

“Over 3.8 million young adults found not working or in school in early 2021.” June 2021 (with Simran Kalkat\*, Shawn Fremstad). <https://cepr.net/over-3-8-million-young-adults-found-not-working-or-in-school-in-early-2021/>

“Housing insecurity by race and place during the pandemic.” April 2021 (with Simran Kalkat\*, Shawn Fremstad). <https://cepr.net/report/housing-insecurity-by-race-and-place-during-the-pandemic/>

“Bias in survey nonresponse and its impacts on labor force statistics.” April 2021 (with Dean Baker). [https://www.ineteconomics.org/uploads/papers/WP\\_150-Cai-Baker.pdf](https://www.ineteconomics.org/uploads/papers/WP_150-Cai-Baker.pdf)

“Most children live in households that experience one or more substantial declines in earnings during the year: The Child Tax Credit should be restructured to help them.” March 2021 (with Shawn Fremstad). <https://cepr.net/report/most-children-live-in-households-that-experience-one-or-more-substantial-declines-in-earnings-during-the-year-the-child-tax-credit-should-be-restructured-to-help-them/>

“It is time for the FMLA to fulfill the promise of inclusive and paid leave.” February 2021 (with Eileen Appelbaum). <https://cepr.net/report/it-is-time-for-the-fmla-to-fulfill-the-promise-of-inclusive-and-paid-leave/>

“Pandemic leads to more precarious housing situation.” August 2020 (with Shawn Fremstad). <https://cepr.net/pandemic-leads-to-more-precarious-housing-situation/>

“Labor market transitions of young people during the pandemic.” July 2020 (with Hye Jin Rho and Shawn Fremstad). <https://cepr.net/labor-market-transitions-of-young-people-during-the-pandemic/>

“Poverty and risk of child protective services involvement” 2019. Report to the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. (with Lonnie Berger, Kristen Slack, Jessica Pac, and Anna Walther).

“A review of out-of-home placement prevention programs.” 2019. Report to the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. (with Lonnie Berger and Kristen Slack).

“Father engagement in prevention programs.” 2019. Memo to the Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board. (with Kristen Slack).

## **PRESENTATIONS** (Selected)

“Bias in survey nonresponse and its impacts on labor force outcomes.” Society for the Study of Economic Inequality (ECINEQ), hosted by LSE. July 2021. Virtual presentation.

“Survey bias may underestimate unemployment, particularly among young black men.” CEPR and Institute for New Economic Thinking. April 2021. Virtual presentation.

“The effects of parental employment instability on American children.” Biennial conference of Work and Family Researchers Network. March 2021. Virtual presentation.

“Economic instability and CPS involvement: Evidence from state administrative data.” Presentation at the annual meeting of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM). November 2020. Virtual presentation.

“Informal transfers in comparisons of income distribution: Lessons from rich and middle-income countries.” (with Martin Evans). Society of Government Economists, Washington DC. March 2020. (\*invited but not presented due to COVID-19 cancellation)

“The impact of housing assistance on risk of young child maltreatment: New evidence from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study.” Society for Social Work and Research, Washington DC. January 2020.

“When jobs disappear or become unstable: Income dynamics and economic wellbeing among urban households.” (with Chris Wimer, Lonnie Berger). Population Association of America (PAA), Austin, TX. April 2019; Society for Social Work and Research, San Francisco, CA. 2019.

“Extreme child poverty in rich and poor nations: Lessons from Atkinson for the fight against child poverty.” (with Tim Smeeding). LIS/LWS Users Conference – The legacy of Tony Atkinson in Inequality Analysis, Luxembourg. May 2018.

“Informal transfers in comparisons of income distribution: Lessons from rich and middle-income countries.” (with Martin Evans). Society for the Study of Economic Inequality, New York, NY. July 2017.

“Examining the effects of housing programs on housing deprivation, poverty and material hardship among low-income households.” (with Irwin Garfinkel, Kathy Neckerman, Chris Wimer). Society for Social Work and Research, Washington DC. January 2018; Population Association of America, Chicago, IL. April 2017.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- 2020–2021 Instructor, Advanced Research Methods for Policy Practice. Columbia University, School of Social Work. (Spring 2020. Spring 2021)
- 2020 Instructor, Research Methods and Statistics Lab. Columbia School of Social Work. (Spring 2020)
- 2019 Teaching Assistant/Instructor for discussion sections, Introduction to Social Policy. UW-Madison, Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work. (Fall 2019)
- 2016–2017 Teaching Associate, Program Evaluation in Social Services. Columbia University, School of Social Work. (Summer 2016. Summer 2017)

### **FELLOWSHIPS OR AWARDS**

- 2021 Harry Braverman Paper Award honorable mention in the Labor Studies Division at Society for the Study of Social Problems meeting
- 2021 Kadushin Dissertation Research Award, UW-Madison
- 2020–2021 Research support from the Institute for New Economic Thinking
- 2018–2021 Graduate Research Fellowship, Institute for Research on Poverty, UW-Madison
- 2020 Research support from Council on Contemporary Families, UT Austin
- 2019 Graduate School Student Grants, UW-Madison
- 2017 Columbia Population Research Center travel grants, Columbia University.
- Spring 2014 Travel grant for the joint research practicum by the University College London and Just Space Network, London, UK.
- 2014 Travel grant for the field work - Woolwich Social Housing Regeneration Development, led by the Survey of London, London, UK (Spring 2014)
- 2012–2013 China Guangsha Media Scholarship (an external scholarship for students who demonstrate academic achievement in mass media and urban development studies)
- 2011–2012 Undergraduate Innovative Research and Practice grant from ZUMC
- May 2012 Leadership Award (*Bear Award*) from University of California, Riverside and U.S. International Education Association
- May 2012 Culture Ambassador Award from University of California, Riverside
- Fall 2011 Scholarship (short term study abroad) from U.S. International Education Association