

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

Economic Instability, Job Quality, Social Policy, Inequality and Poverty, Workplace and Public Health

## **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, 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
- 2022–2023 Visiting Fellow, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Boston MA
- 2020–2021 Lecturer, Columbia University, New York NY
- 2017–2019 Graduate 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, Julie Y. 2023. “Work hour volatility and child poverty: The potential mitigating role of safety net programs.” *Social Forces*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soad109> [blog]
- Cai, Julie Y., Christopher Wimer, Lawrence Berger, and Matthew Maury. 2023. “Intra-year employment instability and economic well-being among urban households: Mitigating effects of the social safety net.” *Children and Youth Services Review* 148: 106855. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2023.106855> [blog]
- Cai, Julie Y. 2022. “Housing assistance, poverty, and material hardships.” *Housing Policy Debate*: 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10511482.2022.2141581> [link]
- Cai, Julie Y. 2022. “Economic instability and child maltreatment risk: Evidence from state administrative data.” *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 130, 105213. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2021.105213>

Slack, Kristen S., Lawrence Berger, Aaron Reilly, Rachel Reynders, and Julie Cai. 2022. "Preventing child protective services system involvement by asking families what they need: findings from a multi-site RCT of the community response program (CRP)." *Children and Youth Services Review*, 141, 106569. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2022.106569>

Wang, Julia S. H., Yixia Cai, and Qin Gao. 2022. "How effective are social safety net programs in reducing poverty risks? A comparative study of Taiwan and Southeast China." *Journal of Asian Public Policy* 15, no. 3: 338-373. (previously published under name Yixia Cai)

Cai, Yixia, and Timothy Smeeding. 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. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40797-019-00116-w>

Cai, Yixia, and Martin Evans. 2018. Informal transfers in comparisons of income distributions: Lessons from rich and middle-income countries. *Journal of Income Distribution*, 26(2), 1-20.

#### Work in Progress

Cai, Julie Y. and Marybeth Mattingly. "Work hour volatility and racial earnings disparities among U.S. workers"

"Intra-year income volatility, health, and healthcare access"

"Work hour volatility among U.S. working parents: Implications for racial and gender equity"

#### **POLICY WRITINGS AND SHORT ARTICLES (selected)**

##### Reports/Issue Briefs (\*indicates research interns)

Cai, Julie Y. (2023). "Work hour instability by the numbers: How do workers fare in the wake of the pandemic?" Boston, MA: Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. [\[link\]](#)

Cai, Julie Y., and Victoria Coan.\* (2023). "Care-related part-time employment: The case for federally guaranteed paid family and medical leave." Washington, DC: Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR). [\[link\]](#)

Cai, Julie Y., and Joe Peck.\* (2022). "Financial struggles of working-class women reveal potential for more robust family-friendly policy response." Washington, DC: Center for Economic and Policy Research. [\[link\]](#)

Vallas, Rebecca, Kim Knackstedt, Hayley Brown, Julie Cai, Shawn Fremstad, and Andrew Stettner. (2022). "Economic justice is disability justice." Washington, DC: The Century Foundation. [\[link\]](#)

Kashen, Julie, Julie Y. Cai, Hayley Brown, and Shawn Fremstad. (2022). "How states would benefit if Congress truly invested in child care and pre-K". Washington, DC: The Century Foundation. [\[link\]](#)

Cai, Julie Y., Shawn Fremstad, and Simran Kalkat.\* (2021). "Housing insecurity by race and place during the pandemic." Washington, DC: Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR). [\[link\]](#)

Cai, Julie Y., and Dean Baker. (2021). "Masking real unemployment: The overall and racial impact of survey non-response on measured labor market outcomes." New York, NY: Institute for New Economic Thinking. [\[link\]](#)

Cai, Julie Y., and Shawn Fremstad. (2021). "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." Washington, DC: Center for Economic and Policy Research. [\[link\]](#)

Berger, Lonnie, Kristen Slack, Julie Yixia Cai, Jessica Pac, and Anna Walther. (2019). "Poverty and risk of child protective services involvement." Madison, WI: Wisconsin Department of Children and Families.

Berger, Lonnie, Kristen Slack, and Julie Yixia Cai. (2019). "A review of out-of-home placement prevention programs." Madison, WI: Wisconsin Department of Children and Families.

Cai, Julie and Kristi Slack. (2019). "Father engagement in prevention programs." Madison, WI: Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board.

### Short Articles

Cai, Julie Y. (March 2023). "Punitive work tests in SNAP and Medicaid would harm workers with unstable jobs." Center for Economic and Policy Research. [\[link\]](#)

Utz, Annabel,\* Julie Y. Cai, and Dean Baker. (August 2022). "The Pandemic Rise in Self-Employment: Who is Working for Themselves Now?" Center for Economic and Policy Research. [\[link\]](#)

Godfrey, Julia,\* Shawn Fremstad, and Julie Y. Cai. (July 2022). "LGBT adults are more likely to experience mental health hardships, but less likely to get needed help." CEPR. [\[link\]](#)

Godfrey, Julia,\* Julie Y. Cai, and Shawn Fremstad. (June 2022). "Lack of universal childcare and other family benefits hurts LGBT parents and caregivers." CEPR. [\[link\]](#)

Utz, Annabel,\* and Julie Cai. (June 2022). "LGBTQ+ workers especially burdened by unpredictable work hours, unstable incomes." CEPR. [\[link\]](#)

Goubert, Anaïs,\* Julie Cai, and Eileen Appelbaum. (October 2021). "Home health care: Latinx and Black women are overrepresented, but all women face heightened risk of poverty." CEPR. [\[link\]](#)

Kalkat, Simran,\* Julie Cai, and Shawn Fremstad. (June 2021). "Over 3.8 million young adults found not working or in school in early 2021." CEPR. [\[link\]](#)

Kalkat, Simran,\* and Julie Cai. (May 2021). "Food and housing hardship over the COVID-19 recession." CEPR. [\[link\]](#)

Cai, Julie, and Eileen Appelbaum. (February 2021). "It is time for the FMLA to fulfill the promise of inclusive and paid leave." CEPR. [\[link\]](#)

Cai, Julie, and Shawn Fremstad. (August 2020). "Pandemic leads to more precarious housing situation." CEPR. [\[link\]](#)

Rho, Hye Jin, Julie Y. Cai, and Shawn Fremstad. (July 2020). "Labor market transitions of young people during the pandemic." CEPR.

### **PRESENTATIONS (Selected)**

2023: University of Michigan Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics RC28 summer meeting; Institute for Research on Poverty and the National Research Center on Hispanic Children and Families (invited); Population Association of America (PAA); Russell Sage Foundation; Census Bureau SIPP Meeting (virtual)

2022: Virtual meeting hosted by the Washington Center for Equitable Growth and the Century Foundation (invited); Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

2021: CEPR and the Institute for New Economic Thinking (virtual)

2020: APPAM, Council on Contemporary Families at University of Texas, Austin, Society of Government Economists (\*invited but not presented due to COVID-19 cancellation)

2019: PAA; Society for Social Work and Research

2018: LIS/LWS Users Conference in Luxembourg – The legacy of Tony Atkinson in Inequality Analysis

2017: Society for the Study of Economic Inequality; PAA

## **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)

## **SERVICE**

- 2023–2024 Session Organizer, PAA 2024 annual meeting (scheduled)
- July 2023 Reviewer, 2023 APPAM Equity and Inclusion Fellowship
- 2019–2020 Student Representative, PhD Program Committee, UW-Madison
- 2012–2013 Representative, International Communication & Volunteer Association, ZUMC
- 2011–2012 Vice President, Academic Forum for Media Diversity, ZUMC
- 2010–2011 Peer Mentor, School of Journalism and Communications, ZUMC

## **MEDIA (Selected)**

Podcast, MomsRising.org. June 2023.

BBC, “The women forced to 'choose' self-employment.” October 25, 2022.

CNBC, “Asian Americans face longer periods of unemployment, other labor market challenges.” May 30, 2022

Politico, “As America returns to work, child care remains a serious obstacle.” March 21, 2022. (refers to the report co-authored with the Century Foundation)

Affordable Housing Finance, “Hispanic and Black renters see large increases in housing insecurity.” August 14, 2020.

Deseret News, “How COVID-19 dimmed Generation Z’s plans and confidence.” July 1, 2020.

## **FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS**

- 2023–2024 Research support from the Institute for New Economic Thinking
- 2022– Research fellowship from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
- 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
2020	Small grant from Council on Contemporary Families
2019	Graduate School Student Grants, UW-Madison
Spring 2014	Small grant for the joint research practicum by the University College London and Just Space Network, London, UK
2014	Small 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