

Bira Zhahadai

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Economics
Illinois Wesleyan University
Bloomington, IL 61701

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Employment

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| • Illinois Wesleyan University (Current) | Bloomington, IL |
| – <i>Assistant Professor of Economics</i> | 2023 Aug-Present |
| • James Madison University | Harrisonburg, VA |
| – <i>Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics</i> | 2022 Aug-2023 Aug |
| • World Bank Group | Washington, D.C. |
| – <i>Consultant at Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Program</i> | 2022 Sep-2023 Aug |

Education

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| • North Carolina State University | Raleigh, NC |
| – <i>Ph.D. in Economics: Field in Macroeconomics</i> | 2022 |
| – <i>Dissertation: “Essays on Business Cycles in Emerging Market Economies”</i> | |
| • North Carolina State University | Raleigh, NC |
| – <i>M.A. in Economics</i> | 2017 |
| • Northeastern University | Boston, MA |
| – <i>B.S. in Economics</i> | 2013 |

Publication & Working Paper

“Are Business Cycles in Emerging Market Economies Alike?” *International Economics and Economic Policy*, Volume 20, pages 537–561, 06 September 2023 [Link](#)

“Chicago Boys” with Bryan McCannon, *Eastern Economic Journal*, 05 June 2026

“Private Equity and Macroeconomy” with Xi Zhou and Ernesto F. Reyes (Under Review)

“Natural Disaster Clause for Sovereign Debt in Emerging Market Economies” with Olivier Mahul from World Bank Group (Working Paper)

“Productivity Shocks, Financial Frictions, and Business Cycles in Emerging Market Economies” (Working Paper)

Research Interest

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| • Macroeconomics | • Open-economy Macroeconomics | • International Economics |
| • Applied Time Series | • Financial Economics | • Dynamic Equilibrium Models |

Teaching Interest

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| • Macroeconomics | • International Economics | • Monetary Economics |
| • Environmental Economics | • Quantitative Economics | • Time Series Econometrics |

Teaching Experience

- **Assistant Professor (Current)** Illinois Wesleyan University
 - *Intermediate Macroeconomics* Spring 2024, 2025, 2026
 - *International Finance* Fall 2024, Spring 2026
 - *Statistics for Business and Economics* Spring 2024
 - *International Trade* Fall 2023
 - *Money and Banking* Fall 2023, 2024, and 2025
 - *Introduction to Economics* 2023-26
- **Visiting Assistant Professor** James Madison University
 - *Introduction to Quantitative Analysis in Economics* Spring 2023
 - *Environmental Economics* Spring 2023, Fall 2022
 - *Introduction to Macroeconomics* Fall 2022
- **Instructor** North Carolina State University
 - *Resource & Environmental Economics* Spring 2022
 - *Principles of Macroeconomics* Fall 2016 and 2017, Spring 2019
 - *Fundamentals of Economics* Summer 2017
- **Lab Instructor** North Carolina State University
 - *Principles of Macroeconomics* Spring 2016 and 2017, Fall 2018
- **Teaching Assistant** North Carolina State University
 - *Macroeconomics I (Ph.D.)* Fall 2017
 - *Macroeconomics II (Ph.D.)* Spring 2018 and 2019
 - *Fundamentals of Macroeconomics (Masters)* Spring 2022
- **Tutor** Northeastern University
 - *Applied Econometrics* 2011-2013
 - *Intermediate Microeconomics* 2011-2013
 - *Principles of Microeconomics* 2011-2013
 - *Introduction to Computer Science* 2011-2013

Conference & Presentation

- **Conference**
 - *Society of Economic Measurement 11th Conference* St. Louis (MO), July 2026
 - * Presented “Private Equity and Macroeconomy”
 - *Association of Private Enterprise Education 50th Meeting* Las Vegas (NV), April 2026
 - * Presented “Private Equity and Macroeconomy: A Proxy-VAR Estimation of Private Equity Shock”
 - *Midwest Economics Association 90th Meeting* Chicago (IL), March 2026
 - * Presented “Private Equity and Macroeconomy: A Proxy-VAR Estimation of Private Equity Shock”
 - *Association of Private Enterprise Education 48th Meeting* Las Vegas (NV), April 2024
 - * Presented “Chicago Boys: Economic Liberalization and the Chilean Economy”
 - *Virginia Association of Economics* Richmond (VA), April 2023
 - * Presented “Natural Disaster Clause for Sovereign Debt in Emerging Market Economies”
 - *Second International Conference on Digital Economy* Beijing (China), November 2022
 - * Presented (Virtual) “Productivity Shocks, Financial Frictions, and Business Cycles in Emerging Market Economies”

- *Southern Economics Association 91st Annual Meeting* Houston (TX), November 2021
- * Presented “Are Business Cycles in Emerging Market Economies Alike?”

- **Non-Conference Presentations**

- *Illinois Wesleyan University School of Business and Economics Research Workshop* February 2026
- *James Madison University Department of Economics Seminar Series* Fall 2022
- *North Carolina State University Macroeconomics Seminar* Fall 2021
- *North Carolina State University Brown-Bag Lunch Seminar* Fall 2016

Professional Experience

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- **Truelight Energy** Boston, MA
 - *Data Analyst* Winter 2013-Spring 2014
 - **American Institute for Economics Research** Great Barrington, MA
 - *Research Assistant* Summer 2013
 - **Property and Portfolio Research** Boston, MA
 - *Research Assistant* Summer and Fall 2011

Award & Honor

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- **GSSP Economics Graduate Fellowship** 2015-2019
 - *North Carolina State University*
 - **Advanced Certified Tutor, Level II** 2013
 - *College Reading & Learning Association at Northeastern University*
 - **Student Affairs Scholarship** 2010
 - *Northeastern University*

Skill

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computing <li style="padding-left: 2em;">– <i>Julia, Matlab, Python, R, Stata, and L^AT_EX</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Languages <li style="padding-left: 2em;">– <i>English, Mongolian, and Chinese</i> |
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