

RUIMIN AO

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<https://ruiminao.com/>

EDUCATION

2020 - **PhD Economics**, University College London
2019 - 20 **MRes Economics**, University College London
2018 - 19 **MSc Economics with Distinction**, University of Warwick
2014 - 18 **BSc Economics with Honours**, University of Nottingham

AFFILIATIONS

2023 - **Visiting PhD Student**, Institute for Fiscal Studies

SUPERVISORS

Professor Marcos Vera-Hernández
Department of Economics
University College London
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Professor Valérie Lechene
Department of Economics
University College London
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FIELD OF RESEARCH

Health Economics, Applied Economics, Labour Economics, Behavioural Economics, Development Economics.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- *Behaviour Under Addiction: Dynamic Choice Between Smoking and Vaping.*

I develop and estimate a dynamic discrete choice model of joint cigarette and e-cigarette use, built around two distinct but interacting product-specific addiction stocks. The two products are substitutes for all consumers, yet the strength of substitution varies sharply with prior addiction: a smoker's sensitivity to cigarette prices weakens as smoking addiction deepens, whereas a vaper's sensitivity to e-cigarette prices *strengthens* as vaping addiction deepens. The central finding is a striking asymmetry between the two taxes—a cigarette tax does little to curb smoking among the heaviest smokers, while an e-cigarette tax sharply reduces vaping but pushes former smokers and dual users back toward combustible cigarettes.

- *When climate change scrambles food prices, who sacrifices nutrition?*
- *The impact of discount retail stores on household consumption and wellbeing: evidence from the UK.*
- *Could doctor training improve knowledge and practice? An analysis of an RCT program in Yunnan, China.*

PHD COURSES TAKEN

ECON0107	Macroeconomics <i>Course lecturer: Dr. Ralph Luetticke, Prof. Frank Portier, Prof. Vincent Sterk, Prof. Morten Ravn</i>
ECON0106	Microeconomics <i>Course lecturer: Prof. Martin Cripps, Prof. Philippe Jehiel, Prof. Vasiliki Skreta</i>
ECON0108	Econometrics <i>Course lecturers: Prof. Andrew Chesher, Prof. Toru Kitagawa, Prof. Martin Weidner and Dr. Daniel Wilhelm</i>
ECON0086	Topics in Applied Econometrics <i>Course lecturers: Prof. Aureo de Paula</i>
ECON0112	Experimental Economics <i>Course lecturers: Prof. Antonio Guarino, Dr. Terri Kneeland, Dr. Ryan Kendall</i>
ECONDEV	Development Economics <i>Course lecturers: Prof. Imran Rasul, Prof. Jonas Hjort, Dr. Gabriel Ulyssea</i>
ECON	Topics in Applied consumer theory <i>Course lecturer: Prof. Valérie Lechene</i>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2023 -	TA for (BSc) Topics in Household Economics <i>Course lecturer: Prof. Valérie Lechene</i>
2021 -	TA for (MSc) Health Economics <i>Course lecturer: Prof. Marcos Vera-Hernández</i>
2020 - 23	TA for (BSc) Applied Economics <i>Course lecturer: Dr. Dunli Li</i>
2020 - 21	TA for (BSc) Quant. Economics & Econometrics <i>Course lecturers: Prof. Dennis kristensen, Aureo de Paula and Kirill Borusyak</i>

WORK EXPERIENCE

2022 -	Research Assistant to Prof. Marcos Vera-Hernández
2015 - 16	Research Assistant to Prof. Chang Liu

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

2022	Best TA on 1st Year UG module (UCL)
2018	Outstanding Student Leader (UNNC)
2018	Outstanding Graduate, by Government of Zhejiang Province, China
2017	Head's Scholarship (UNNC)
2017	Guo-Hua Xing-Zhi Scholarship (UNNC)
2017	Outstanding Youth League Leader (UNNC)
2016	Dean's Scholarship (UNNC)
2015	Provost Scholarship (UNNC)
2014	Entrance Scholarship (UNNC)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Language	Mandarin (native), English (fluent)
Programing Lanuages	Stata, L ^A T _E X, Matlab, R, Python