

[Working Papers](#)

Human Capital, Economic Growth, and Inequality in China

James J. Heckman & Junjian Yi

SHARE      

WORKING PAPER 18100

DOI 10.3386/w18100

ISSUE DATE May 2012

China's rapid growth was fueled by substantial physical capital investments applied to a large stock of medium skilled labor acquired before economic reforms began. As development proceeded, the demand for high skilled labor has grown, and, in the past decade, China has made substantial investments in producing it. The egalitarian access to medium skilled education characteristic of the pre-reform era has given rise to substantial inequality in access to higher levels of education. China's growth will be fostered by expanding access to all levels of education, reducing impediments to labor mobility, and expanding the private sector.

[Download a PDF](#)

[Information on access](#)

Acknowledgements and Disclosures



Download Citation



Published Versions

[“Human Capital, Economic Growth, and Inequality in China,”](#) (with J. Yi). Forthcoming in The Oxford Companion to the Economics of China on Human Capital, Shenggen Fan, Ravi Kanbur, Shang-jin Wei and Xiaobo Zhang, editors. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. (2014).

Related

TOPICS

[Health, Education, and Welfare](#)
[Education](#)
[Labor Economics](#)
[Labor Supply and Demand](#)
[Development and Growth](#)
[Development](#)

PROGRAMS

[Children and Families](#)
[Economics of Education](#)
[Labor Studies](#)

WORKING GROUPS

[Chinese Economy](#)

More from NBER

In addition to [working papers](#), the NBER disseminates affiliates' latest findings through a range of free periodicals — the [NBER Reporter](#), the [NBER Digest](#), the [Bulletin on Retirement and Disability](#), the [Bulletin on Health](#), and the [Bulletin on Entrepreneurship](#) — as well as online conference reports, video lectures, and interviews.



16th Annual Martin Feldstein Lecture:

Lessons for Economists from the Pandemic

Cecilia E. Rouse, The Brookings Institution
and Princeton University
July 22, 2024

2024, 16th Annual Feldstein Lecture, Cecilia E. Rouse, "Lessons for Economists from the Pandemic"

FELDSTEIN LECTURE

PRESENTER: [CECILIA E. ROUSE](#)

Cecilia Rouse, president of the Brookings Institution and a professor at Princeton University, who chaired the Council...



Methods Lectures, Summer Institute 2024:

Analysis and Design of Multi-Armed Bandit Experiments and Policy Learning

Susan Athey, Stanford University and NBER
July 25, 2024

2024 Methods Lecture, Susan Athey, "Analysis and Design of Multi-Armed Bandit Experiments and Policy Learning"

METHODS LECTURES

PRESENTER: [SUSAN ATHEY](#)

Background Materials: backgroundAthey, Susan, Undral Byambadalai, Vitor Hadad, Sanath Kumar Krishnamurthy, Weiwen Leung...



Economics of Social Security Panel Discussion

Earnings Inequality and Payroll Tax Revenues

Karen Dynan, Harvard University
Karen Glenn, Social Security Administration
Stephen Goss, Social Security Administration
Fatih Guvenen, University of Minnesota and NBER
James Pearce, US Congressional Budget Office
NBER Summer Institute, July 24, 2024

2024, Economics of Social Security Panel, "Earnings Inequality and Payroll Tax Revenues"

National Bureau of Economic Research

[Contact Us](#)

1050 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
[617-868-3900](tel:617-868-3900)
info@nber.org
webaccessibility@nber.org

[HOMEPAGE](#)

[Accessibility Policy](#)

[Diversity Policy](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

FOLLOW

