Ao YIN

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Profile

I am an applied economist investigating how social networks, social origin, and cultural capital shape the labor market outcomes of children of immigrants in the Netherlands. My PhD dissertation takes a mixed-methods approach, pairing panel and instrumental variable analysis of large-scale survey data with more than 60 interviews. My research background is genuinely interdisciplinary, spanning economics, sociology, and migration studies.

Current Position

January 2023 to present	**PhD Candidate**, Interdisciplinary PhD Programme, University of Groningen (expected completion February 2027) Dual affiliation: Faculty of Economics and Business; Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society Dissertation: socio-cultural capital and ethnic disparities in the Dutch labor market Promotor: Richard Jong-A-Pin; daily supervisor: Julia Martínez-Ariño
	Group Member, Labor, Household and Public Economics unit, Faculty of Economics and Business
	Group Member, Human Mobility & Migration (HuMM) Lab, Rudolf Agricola School for Sustainable Development, University of Groningen
	Group Member, Just Societies research group, University College Groningen
October 2026 to present	**Visiting Researcher**, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI), The Hague Host: Frank van Tubergen
Availability	From March 2027; earlier start negotiable

Research Interests

Labor economics; migration studies; labor market integration of children of immigrants; social networks; cultural capital; ethnic inequality; gender inequality; mixed methods.

Education

May 2019	**Master of Arts**, Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Washington, DC, United States Major: Economics and International Relations Master's thesis: "Breaking Barriers to Women's Political Leadership: Lessons from the Kingdom of Bahrain", a policy report for the Supreme Council for Women of Bahrain, based on over 35 interviews and fieldwork in Bahrain *SAIS Fellowship; Robert H. Kleeb Jr. Summer Internship Fund*
July 2017	**Bachelor of Philosophy**, Peking University, Beijing, China Major: Science of Religion Minor: International Relations *Yang Qinqing Scholarship; Social Work Award*
July 2015	**Summer School**, University of California, Berkeley, United States

Working Papers

1. "It's Very Un-Dutch": Cultural Misrecognition and Hiring Disparities Among Second-Generation Migrants in the Netherlands (with Julia Martínez-Ariño). *Revised and resubmitted, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies.*
2. Networks, Earnings, and Occupational Stratification among Immigrants: Evidence from the Netherlands (with Liwen Chen and Crystal Zhan).
3. Does Cultural Capital Matter for Migrants? Evidence from the Dutch Labor Market (with Richard Jong-A-Pin).
4. Discretion, Marketization, and the Gender Wage Gap in China (with Agnieszka Postepska).

Methods, Data, and Software

Quantitative	Panel data estimators, instrumental variables (shift-share designs), structural equation modeling, factor analysis
Qualitative	60+ semi-structured interviews with second-generation migrant job-seekers and HR managers in the Dutch business services sector
Data	Large-scale survey data: Netherlands Longitudinal Lifecourse Study (NELLS) wave 1; HBO Monitor 2015-2024; China Family Panel Studies (CFPS) 2014-2022
Software	R, Stata, Mplus, ATLAS.ti, Qualtrics
Coursework	Econometric Analysis of Panel Data; Empirical Methods of Economics; Introduction to Structural Equation Modeling using Mplus; Social Scientific Research Methods; Qualitative Analysis with ATLAS.ti

Conference Presentations

September 2026	Dutch Association for Migration Research (DAMR) Annual Conference, Radboud University, Nijmegen
September 2026	European Association of Labour Economists (EALE) Annual Conference, Barcelona, Spain (poster presentation)
August 2026	European Sociological Association (ESA) Conference, Warsaw, Poland
March 2026	European Public Choice Society (EPCS) Conference, Madrid, Spain
July 2025	Neuchâtel Graduate Conference of Migration and Mobility Studies, Neuchâtel, Switzerland
July 2025	International Migration Research Network (IMISCOE) Annual Conference, Paris–Aubervilliers, France (Online participation)
June 2025	Royal Dutch Economic Association (Koninklijke Vereniging voor de Staathuishoudkunde, KVS) New Paper Sessions, The Hague
June 2025	Migration and Societal Change Conference, Utrecht
June 2025	Research Day "40 Years of Schengen: Migration as a Driver of European (Dis)integration?", University of Groningen (panel speaker)
April 2025	European Network for Social Policy Analysis (ESPAnet) Low Countries Early Career Research Day, Leuven, Belgium
September 2024	Italian Association of Development Economists (SITES) and Global Labor Organization (GLO) Annual Conference, Naples, Italy
April 2024	European Public Choice Society (EPCS) Conference, Vienna, Austria

Teaching Experience

Academic Year 2026 to 2027	Introduction to Academic Research, University College Groningen Understanding AI: session on artificial intelligence and the labor market, University College Groningen Bachelor's thesis supervision, University College Groningen
Academic Year 2025 to 2026	Research Project, Economics & Business Economics Macroeconomics tutorial Statistics 3: Factor Analysis Bachelor's thesis supervision, Economics & Business Economics (profile Economics) Bachelor's thesis supervision, International Business Guest lecture on mixed-methods research, Introduction to Academic Research
Academic Year 2024 to 2025	Research Project, Economics & Business Economics (rated 5 out of 5 by students) Bachelor's thesis supervision, Economics & Business Economics (profile Economics) Bachelor's thesis supervision, International Business

Blog Posts and Media

2022	Il Mio Breve ma Dolce Viaggio in Arché. *Fondazione Arché.* https://arche.it/il-mio-breve-ma-dolce-viaggio-in-arche/
2019	Bahraini Women Make Gains amid Tightening Political Freedom (with Dania Abdalla, Devan Kerley, and Ben Nussbaumer). *The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington.* https://agsiw.org/bahraini-women-make-gains-amid-tightening-political-freedom/
2018	Including Asian Women in Diverse Spaces. *Women's Media Center.* https://womensmediacenter.com/fbomb/including-asian-women-in-diverse-spaces

Research and Policy Experience

2021 to 2022	**Research and Resource Mobilization Fellow**, Fondazione Arché, Milan Contributed to seven grant proposals, four funded; raised over 30,000 euros in funding and materials
2019 to 2020	**Research Trainee**, Social Development Division, UN ESCAP, Bangkok Co-edited 12 national reviews for the Beijing+25 regional review
2018	**Women and Foreign Policy Intern**, Council on Foreign Relations, Washington DC
2018	**Resource Mobilization Intern**, UN Women Washington DC Liaison Office

Event Organization

June 2026 to present	Organizing team member, Winter Conference "Contemporary Human Mobilities: Arrival, Infrastructures, Politics", Human Mobility & Migration (HuMM) Lab
October 2025 to present	PhD event organizer, *Religion Matters* monthly lecture series, University of Groningen
March 2026	Co-organizer and co-moderator, Transdisciplinary PhD Day on Migration and Mobility, Human Mobility & Migration (HuMM) Lab

Languages

Mandarin (native), English (fluent), Italian (advanced), Dutch (intermediate)