

EconLab Opportunity for 2024-25: RA for Yifan Mao

Title: Research Assistant

Openings: One

Project Description:

I am an economics PhD student specializing in China's economic history. I use historical data to study a wide range of topics. I have examined how the state superseded clans to provide public goods in imperial China, with the 1907 Educational Statistics. I am currently studying the evolution of gender norms during 20th-century China, whose complicated history left rich materials for us to explore. I am seeking someone passionate about bringing historical data back to life and uncovering China's 20th-century transformation.

Position Description:

Your task is to extract and digitize historical data. We will start with the 1953 census, with mainly OCR tools. We might use some web scraping and text analysis/NLP later, depending on the data structure. As the job involves reading local archives, you need to be at least a fluent reader of simplified Chinese if not a speaker. Previous experience with OCR and web scraping will be a plus. The position is expected to start as soon as possible.

Application Requirements:

If you are interested, please send me your CV and a short paragraph that explains why you are interested in this position, what you expect to gain from this experience and what relevant skills you have. My email address is yifanmao2029@u.northwestern.edu.