

# YUXIAO HU

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## EDUCATION

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**London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK** 2019 -2025 expected  
*Ph.D. in Economics; PhD Progression Grade: Distinction*  
Reference: Tim Besley, Robin Burgess, Michael Callen  
Intercollegiate Study at UCL: Advanced Deep Learning and Reinforcement Learning

**University of Chicago, Chicago, IL USA** 2017 - 2018  
*Master of Arts in Social Science, Concentration in Economics*

**Hunan University, Changsha, Hunan, China** 2011 - 2015  
*Bachelor of Economics*

## FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

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Environmental Economics, Development Economics

## JOB MARKET PAPER

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**Government and Nature: Evidence from the Distribution of Flood Damages in China**  
(with Yifan Wang); Media Coverage:[VoxDev](#); [Draft](#)  
*Asian Development Bank & International Economic Association Policy Research Award (Honorable Mention);  
Selected for JEEM Data, Information, and Environment Workshop*

**Abstract:** With increasing disaster risks, it is increasingly important to understand the impact of government interventions that reallocate environmental damages. In 2000, the Chinese government designated 96 Flood Detention Basin (FDB) counties, allocating lower-elevation areas within these counties for temporary floodwater storage. During severe flood events, floodwater may be diverted to these FDB counties to protect downstream urban centers. We evaluate the aggregate and distributional impacts of the FDB policy. Difference-in-differences results show that if a county is selected to the FDB list, county-level firm entry and firm-level fixed asset investments would decrease by 15.9% and 19.7%, respectively. Overall, FDB designation results in a 10.7% reduction in county-level nighttime light intensity. We then develop a spatial general equilibrium model that captures trade linkages among FDB counties, protected cities, and other regions. By comparing the actual output to a counterfactual scenario without FDBs, we find that as FDBs absorb more floodwater, the policy's output gains increase; however, this comes at the cost of growing inequality between FDB counties and others. In summary, FDBs may improve economic resilience against floods, but the economic cost is taken disproportionately by rural counties.

Presentations: Harvard Kennedy School Climate Economics Workshop, LSE EEE Camp, Monash University, Peking University-CCER Summer Institute, Renmin University of China, EAERE Early Career Workshop, AERE Annual Meeting, UEA Summer School, UEA North America Meeting, EEA-ESEM, North America Econometric Society Summer Meeting, AEA/ASSA Annual Meeting

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

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### **Natural Disasters and Spatial Distribution of Innovation**

*with Haoyu Gao, Runhong Ma, and Peixuan Zhao*

This study examines how natural disasters reshape the geographic distribution of patents in China. We find that while patent application declines in disaster-hit areas, cross-county collaborative innovation increases.

## **Trapped by Floods? Migration Decisions in Response to Floods**

*with Runhong Ma*

We investigate whether flood risks influence migration patterns in China, using satellite flood data and a spatial general equilibrium model to assess the impact of mobility restriction on migration decisions.

## **Battling Emissions: Green Transition in the Steel Industry**

*with Yuanhang Yu*

Using detailed plant-level data, we assess the impact of China's 2019 green transition policy on the steel industry by examining (i) whether pollution has decreased around treated plants; (ii) and analyzing the policy's effects on the performance of steel firms.

## **In the Shadow of Rainbow: Is the Sexual Orientation Gap Disappearing in the United States?**

We find that although the wage gap for male gay workers in the United States narrows, high-income gay workers face greater challenges in translating their human-capital advantage into earnings.

## **Foreign Aid Famine and Fiscal Capacity in Post-Cold War Africa**

We use synthetic control approach to analyze the impact of losing foreign aid on fiscal capacity in African countries. We find that aid reductions did not significantly increase overall tax revenue but led to a greater reliance on trade taxes.

## **CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATION**

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**2025:** AEA/ASSA Annual Meeting (Environmental Justice)

**2024:**

*Conference:* AERE Annual Meeting, North America Summer Meeting of Econometric Society, EEA-ESEM, UEA North America Meeting;

*University:* Harvard Climate Economics Workshop, LSE EEE Camp, Warwick-Monash AYEW, Monash University, Peking University-CCER Summer Institute, Renmin Univeristy of China;

*Workshop:* EAERE Early Career Workshop, JEEM Special Issue Workshop (Data, Information, and Environment), UEA Summer School

**2020:** AEA/ASSA Annual Meeting (Labor and Education Economics of LGBTQ+ People), SEA (LGBTQ+ Session), LBS Trans-Atlantic Doctoral Conference

**2019:** Mastering Metrics Workshop by Prof. Joshua Angrist

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

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ADB & IEA Innovative Policy Award (Honorable Mention), 2024

*Sole selected paper without faculty coauthor*

Class Teacher Bonus Award, LSE, 2020-2024

Departmental Scholarship, LSE, 2019-2024

Travel Fund: Monash University, 2024; Harvard University, 2024; CAGE Warwick University, 2024

Silver Medal (top 1%), Kaggle Data Science Competition, 2024

Postgraduate Travel Fund, LSE, 2024

Michio Morishima Student Support, STICERD, LSE, 2022

Association for Comparative Economic Studies (ACES) Summer School, 2020

Nomination for University-Level Students' Union Teaching Award, LSE, 2020

Merit Scholarship, University of Chicago, 2017-2018

## TEACHING ASSISTANCE

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*Overall Teaching Evaluation: > 90%*

EC1C1 Econometrics, LSE (undergraduate), 2024 Spring

EC1B3 Macroeconomics, LSE (undergraduate), 2024 Spring

PP402 Quantitative Methods for Public Policy, LSE (MPA), 2022 Fall

EC221 Principle of Econometrics, LSE (MSc), 2020 Fall, 2021 Spring, 2021 Fall, 2022 Spring

## RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

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Center for Economic Performance (What Works Center for Economics Growth) Mar 2022 - Dec 2022  
*Research Assistant*

Department of Sociology, LSE Aug 2021 - Mar 2022  
*Research Manager for Prof. Kristin Surak*

China Development Bank June 2017 - Aug 2017  
*Intern at Research Department*

Department of Economics, Harvard University Jan 2017 - May 2017  
*Short-term Research Assistant for Prof. Richard Freeman*

## SERVICE

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Volunteer Mentor at Ecole des Sciences Byimana (Byimana, Rwanda)  
*Provide volunteer support to Rwandan students in applying to colleges in the United States*

Applicant Mentoring Program (AMP)  
*Help underrepresented students to apply for PhD*

LSE PhD Offer Holders Buddy Scheme

China Youth of Tomorrow (CYOT)  
*Help first-generation college students in China for overseas master-level and phd-level education*

## LANGUAGE

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Mandarin(Native), English (Proficient), French(B1-B2)

## SKILLS

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Expert in Stata, Latex, Matlab; Proficient in ArcGIS, R, Python; Knowledge in Hydrological Modelling