

YUXIAO HU

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EDUCATION

London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK 2019 -2025 expected
Ph.D. in Economics; PhD Progression Grade: Distinction
Supervisor: Prof. Tim Besley and Prof. Robin Burgess; Advisor: Prof. Mike Callen

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

Environmental Economics, Development Economics

JOB MARKET PAPER

Sacrifice for the Greater Good? Benefits and Costs of Flood Detention Basins

(with Yifan Wang)

Asian Development Bank & International Economic Association Policy Research Award (Honorable Mention)

Selected for JEEM Data, Information, and Environment Workshop

Abstract: Should we intentionally expose certain areas to higher risks to protect a broader region from disasters? Policymakers face a potential winner-loser dilemma in making such decisions. Since 2000, 96 pre-designated Flood Detention Basin (FDB) counties in China have been deliberately inundated over 100 times to protect urban areas. Our study examines the benefits and costs of this flood risk redistribution policy. Event-study analysis reveals that counties under the FDB policy experience an annual real GDP loss of approximately US\$10 billion. This economic underdevelopment is attributed to adverse impacts on firm entry and investment decisions. Upon inclusion in the FDB list, counties experience a significant average decrease in firm entry. Spatial regression discontinuity analysis further indicates a reduction in firm-level fixed asset investments in these counties. Using a spatial general equilibrium framework, we construct a counterfactual scenario without FDB counties absorbing excessive floodwater. Integrating a hydrodynamic engineering model, we find that the actual benefit-to-cost ratio in total output is greater than 1. However, our findings suggest potential overprotection of urban areas by the Chinese government, as similar output gains could be achieved by removing higher productivity counties from the FDB list.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Natural Disasters and Spatial Distribution of Innovation

with Haoyu Gao, Runhong Ma, and Peixuan Zhao

Trapped in Flood? Migration Decisions in Response to Floods

with Runhong Ma

Struggle in the Battle against Emissions: Green Transition in Steel Industry

with Yuanhang Yu

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

Foreign Aid Famine and Fiscal Capacity in post-Cold War Africa

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATION

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, CREEA Annual Meeting;

University: LSE EEE Camp, Warwick-Monash AYEWE, Harvard Climate Economics Workshop, 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

ADB & IEA Innovative Policy Award (Honorable Mention), 2024
Sole selected paper without faculty coauthor

Travel Fund, Harvard University, 2024

Travel Fund, CAGE Warwick University, 2024

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

Postgraduate Travel Fund, LSE, 2024

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

Michio Morishima Student Support, STICERD, LSE, 2022

Class Teacher Bonus Award, LSE, 2020-2023

Nomination for Students' Union Teaching Award, LSE, 2020

Departmental Scholarship, LSE, 2019-2024

Merit Scholarship, University of Chicago, 2017-2018

TEACHING ASSISTANCE

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

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

World Bank Mar 2022 - Jun 2022
External Consultant

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

China Development Bank
Intern at Research Department

June 2017 - Aug 2017

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

Jan 2017 - May 2017

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee Service: AERE - SEA Meeting

Volunteer Mentor at Ecole des Sciences Byimana (Byimana, Rwanda)
Provided 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

Mandarin(Native), English (Proficient, TOEFL: 115/120, GRE 163V+170Q+AW5), French(B1-B2)

SKILLS

Expert in Stata, Latex, Matlab

Proficient in ArcGIS, R, Python

Knowledge in Hydrological Modelling (MIKE+ Software)