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Yuetong Zhang

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EDUCATION

PhD student of Economics <i>Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University</i> Field of interest: Environmental Economics, Applied Econometrics, Remote Sensing	Aug 2021 - Present <i>Virginia, U.S.A</i>
Master of Science Quantitative Economics <i>University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	Aug 2019 - Dec 2020 <i>Wisconsin, U.S.A</i>
Master of Science Policy Economics <i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>	Aug 2017 - May 2019 <i>Illinois, U.S.A</i>
Bachelor of Art Public Finance <i>Wuhan University</i>	Sept 2013 - June 2017 <i>Hubei, China</i>

PUBLICATIONS

Lu, H., Zhang, Y., & Xu, W. (2016). A study of the carbon reduction effect of china's fiscal policy: Based on the symbolic constraint model [(in Chinese)]. *Contemporary Finance Economics*, (11), 32–44. <https://doi.org/10.13676/j.cnki.cn36-1030/f.2016.11.004>

PROJECTS

Map-Enhanced Decision-Making in Contingent Valuation (PhD Thesis):

Collaborated with Dr. Klaus Moeltner at Virginia Tech and Dr. Robert Johnston at Clark University.

- Utilized data from Johnston et al., 2023 to determine the causal impact of interactive map engagement on voting behavior regarding a new water quality improvement policy.
- Conducted an analysis of key variables influencing respondents' interactions with the map within a contingent valuation survey framework.
- Employed a causal forest approach to examine the effect of interactive map usage on voting decisions.

Improving the Accuracy of Willingness to Pay Estimates by Addressing Protest Responses (PhD Thesis):

Collaborated with Dr. Klaus Moeltner at Virginia Tech and Dr. Robert Johnston at Clark University.

- Utilized data from Johnston et al., 2023 to determine the causal impact of protest responses to voting decisions regarding a new water quality improvement policy.
- Formulated the theoretical model based on the assumption of conditional unconfoundedness rather than relying on the correlation between error terms.
- Developed a method to categorize protest responses based on voting decision rationales and employed the causal forest approach to analyze the impact of protest on voting behavior.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UW-Madison

Grader

Remote

Sept 2020 - May 2021

- Fall 2020 Game Theory and Economic Analysis (Econ 521): 53 enrolled undergraduate and graduate students
- Spring 2021 Game Theory and Economic Analysis (Econ 521): 51 Enrolled undergraduate and graduate students

PRESENTATION

Map-Enhanced Decision-Making in Contingent Valuation (May 29 2024):

poster presentation at the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists 2024 Summer Conference

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Zhongtai Securities

Internship (Full-time)

Shandong, China

Jan 2017 - Mar 2017

Business Disclosure and Financial Audit of Company listing: Wrote reports and financial statements.

Hongshan District Tax Bureau

Internship (Part-time)

Hubei, China

Sept 2015 - Nov 2015

Conducted advisory services in tax service hall: Helped to answer the questions for taxpayers in the process of declaring taxation

SERVICE & MEMBERSHIP

Agriculture & Applied Economics Association

member

Association of Environmental and Resource Economists

member

SKILLS SUMMARY

Languages

English (proficient), Chinese (native)

Softwares

STATA, Matlab, R, Eviews, python, Google Earth Engine, MATLAB

Professional Skills

Applied Econometrics, Machine Learning, Causal Analysis, Instrumental Variable Estimation, Panel Data Analysis, Nonparametric Analysis, Bayesian Econometrics, Logistic Regression, Probability Theory

REFEREES

- Klaus Moeltner
Professor
Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics
✉: moeltner@vt.edu
- Elinor Benami
Assistant Professor
Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics
✉: elinor@vt.edu
- Chi Ta
Assistant Professor
Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics
✉: chita@vt.edu

REFERENCES

- Lu, H., Zhang, Y., & Xu, W. (2016). A study of the carbon reduction effect of china's fiscal policy: Based on the symbolic constraint model [(in Chinese)]. *Contemporary Finance Economics*, (11), 32–44. <https://doi.org/10.13676/j.cnki.cn36-1030/f.2016.11.004>
- Johnston, R., Moeltner, K., Peery, S., Ndebele, T., Yao, Z., Crema, S., Wollheim, W., & Besedin, E. (2023). Spatial dimensions of water quality value in new england river networks. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 120, e2120255119. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2120255119>