

QINGYANG HUANG

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Doctoral Studies University of California, Berkeley
PhD, Agricultural and Resource Economics, Expected completion May 2023

PRIMARY FIELDS: Development Economics, Environmental Economics
SECONDARY FIELDS: Political Economy, International Economics (Urban, Economic Geography)

Professor Jeremy Magruder
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Department of Agricultural
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Professor Gerard Roland
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School of Global Policy
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University of California,
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Placement Officers

Professor Sofia Villas-Boas
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Diana Lazo
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Prior Education

Peking University	M.A. Applied Economics	2018
Peking University	B.S. Financial Economics, Statistics	2016

Teaching

Instructor of Record for:

UC Berkeley	ARE, <i>Undergraduate Applied Econometrics</i>	2021
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Graduate Student Instructor (Teaching Assistant) for:

UC Berkeley	ARE, <i>Undergraduate Agricultural and Environmental Policy</i> , David Zilberman	2022
UC Berkeley	ARE, <i>Undergraduate International Trade</i> , Thibault Fally	2021
UC Berkeley	ARE, <i>Undergraduate International Trade</i> , Andres Rodriguez-Clare	2021
UC Berkeley	ARE, <i>Graduate Econometrics I</i> , Aprajit Mahajan	2020
UC Berkeley	ARE, <i>Undergraduate Microeconomics</i> , Leopold Biardeau	2020
UC Berkeley	ARE, <i>Undergraduate Microeconomics</i> , Leo Simon	2019
Peking University	GSM, <i>Undergraduate Microeconomics</i> , Li-An Zhou	2018
Peking University	GSM, <i>Undergraduate Development Economics</i> , Hui Wang	2017

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

2022	ARE Research Grant (\$3,000)
2021	Sacheti Family Fund award (\$1,000)
2018	National Scholarship, Ministry of Education, China

Research Papers

“Decentralization and Environmental Regulation under Overlapping Hierarchies: Evidence from China’s SOE Reform” (JOB MARKET PAPER) [text](#).

Abstract. Chinese central and provincial state-owned enterprises (SOEs) were exempt from local environmental regulations due to an institutional barrier. This exemption pushed local regulators to impose more stringent regulations on private firms. We use rich firm-level panel data and exploit the decentralization of Chinese central and provincial SOEs to explore the direct and spillover effects of removing this regulation constraint. We report that a polluting SOE invests more in unproductive pollution abatement inputs and therefore pollute less and have a lower productivity when decentralized to the prefectural level; moreover, private firms in the same prefecture pollute more and increased output and TFP. The spillover effects are stronger among private firms with more binding financial constraints. At the aggregate level, decentralization of polluting SOE in prefecture decreases total emissions without significant negative effect on total industrial output or aggregate productivity. When hypothetically reallocating 10% of emissions from central and provincial SOEs to private firms, we calculate total industrial output gains of 0.74-3.31%.

“Career incentives of local leaders and crisis response: A case study of COVID 19 lockdowns in China.” (with Qianmiao Chen, Chang Liu and Peng Wang) *European Journal of Political Economy* (2022): 102180. [text](#).

Abstract. This paper studies the role of local Chinese leaders’ career incentives in decisions regarding large scale crises such as the COVID 19 pandemic. Most local leaders were reluctant to impose lockdowns at the beginning of the pandemic, because their promotions rely on posting strong numbers for economic growth in their region, while lockdowns can suppress growth. Once the nation’s top leader warned that local leaders who failed to control the disease would be removed from office, many rapidly implemented resolute measures. However, we find that local leaders with larger promotion incentives were still more likely to downplay the virus by avoiding or minimizing lockdowns.

“Farewell to the God of Plague: Estimating the Effects of China’s Universal Salt Iodization on Educational Outcomes” (with Chang Liu and Li-An Zhou) *Journal of Comparative Economics* 48.1 (2020): pp.20-36. [text](#).

Abstract. This paper estimates the effects of China’s Universal Salt Iodization (USI) policy in 1994 - the largest nutrition intervention policy in human history on children’s later life educational outcomes. Using population census data combined with county level information, we apply a difference in differences strategy to compare the educational outcomes of cohorts born before and after USI across counties with different iodine deficiency disorder levels. Our results show that USI increased primary school enrollment by 0.6 percentage points. Further investigation suggests that girls and children born in rural areas benefit more from USI. The costs of USI almost evenly fell on China’s iodine salt consumers through an in price tax.

Research in Progress

“The Arrival of Talents: The Persistent Effects of Industry specific Immigration” with Chang Liu and Li-An Zhou (*Reduced-form results complete, working on structural evaluations*)

Abstract. We exploit China’s Third Front Construction program (1964 - 1980) as a historical natural experiment to identify the persistent effects of industry specific skilled worker immigration on host regions. We employ TFC program’s war preparation location choice criteria to instrument TFC construction intensity and achieve causal inference. With hand-collected county level historical records from gazetteers and rich county and firm level datasets on contemporary economic activities, our findings suggest that counties receiving TFC enterprises have higher economic development level and upper tail human capital stock in the long-run. Individual and firm level analysis further demonstrate that skill transmission underlying talents reallocation from TFC enterprises to newly established enterprises played a key role in promoting industrialization in the host counties of immigrants.

**Research
in Progress**

“Export shocks and the spatial distribution of carbon emissions: evidence from Chinese counties”

Abstract. The literature documents an striking fact that import tariffs and non-tariff barriers are substantially lower on more carbon intensive products (Shapiro, 2021). We explore in this paper the influence of this implicit trade subsidy on carbon-intensive products with rich county- and firm-level variations from China, the world’s largest exporter. This research aims to address two questions. First, whether the pattern of implicit trade subsidy on carbon-intensive products also exist from the exporter’s view, when taking into consideration the composition of exports to different countries with varying levels of tariff and non-tariff barriers, and if so, how does the pattern evolve over time; second, how the exposure to trade shocks contributes to the aggregate growth and the spatial distribution of carbon emissions in China. We use rich product-level tariff and customs export data to evaluate the first question, and leverage a Bartik-style decomposition of carbon intensity weighted tariff shocks to county level and combine with a new county-level panel dataset of carbon emissions to answer the second question.

“Agricultural Environmental Policy and Rural Household Welfare: Evidence from Straw Burning in China”(with Chong Liu)

Abstract. The prohibition of straw burning in China is among the largest-scale agricultural environmental policies in human history. Though the literature reports rich evidence on the effects of (the prohibition of) straw burning on environmental and health outcomes and estimates the economic values of such effects, limited is known about the impact of this large-scale intervention on agricultural productivity and the welfare of rural households. We conceptualize three channels through which the prohibition of straw-burning affects rural household income: first, straw recollection and recycling is more labor intensive than burning, leading to a reallocation of labor that decreases the days of non-agricultural and outside occupations with higher marginal returns; second, straw recycling may be under adopted because the process is more complicated and requires adjustments on fertilizer inputs; third, the economies of scale in straw recollecting and recycling could indirectly cause an increase in the gains of land reallocation. We further test the three channels with rich household-level panel surveys on rural households and identifies the effects of the prohibition of straw-burning with satellite remote sensing data on agricultural fires and the quasi-random roll-out of subsidies to straw recycling. We leverage the empirical findings to re-evaluate two important dimensions of costs and benefits on this policy: first, the household level economic gains/costs compared to received subsidies; second, the social welfare impacts counting the economic value of environmental impacts, productivity effects, and subsidy costs.

“The impacts of mandatory premarital health screening in China”(with Chang Liu and Peng Wang)

Abstract. The knowledge of health status highly relevant to the health of potential babies are key to fertility decisions. We empirically evaluate the impacts of the cancellation of mandatory premarital health screening in China in 2003. Leveraging a fuzzy regression discontinuity design based on the dates of marriage registration, we use a new survey data of 320,000 mothers and 700,000 children to evaluate the effects of the cancellation on the marital and fertility outcomes of the mothers and the health outcomes of the children.

“Political Choice and Income Distribution: Cross-Country Evidence from Close Elections”

Prior Employment	UC San Diego, Research Assistant (Prof Ruixue Jia)	2017 - 2018
	Stanford University, Research Assistant (Prof Scott Rozelle)	2017
	Peking University, Research Assistant (Prof Li-An Zhou)	2015 - 2017
	Haitong Securities Co., Ltd., Macroeconomist Intern	2016
	China Nature Fund Management Co., Ltd., Macroeconomist Intern	2015
Talks	2022 UC Berkeley Development Seminar	
	2022 ARE Departmental Seminar	
	2021 UC Berkeley Dev Lunch	
Refereeing	<i>Journal of Development Economics</i>	
Languages	English (proficient), Chinese (native)	
Programming	Stata, R, Matlab, ArcGIS	