Da Gong

School of Business

State University of New York College at Geneseo

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Research Interests

Development Economics, Public economics, Political Economy, Culture and Institution, Labor Economics, Applied Machine Learning

Academic Appointments

School of Business, SUNY Geneseo — Geneseo, NY
- **Lecturer of Data Analytics** — Aug. 2024 – Present

Education

Ph.D. Economics — Jun. 2024
University of California, Riverside — Riverside, CA

M.A. History — Jun. 2018
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) — Beijing, China

B.A. Business Administration — Jun. 2015
Hunan University — Changsha, China

Publications

Economic Impacts of China's Zero-COVID Policies
China Economic Review, 2024, vol. 83
with Zhuocheng Shang, Yaqin Su, Andong Yan and Qi Zhang
[China COVID Risk Level Dataset]

The Impacts of the Zero-Covid Policy on Academic Performance: Evidence for Primary and Secondary Students in China
Journal of Asian Economics, 2024, vol. 93
with Yaqin Su, Anping Xia, and Andong Yan

Cost of Zero-Covid: Effects of Anti-contagious Policy on Labor Market Outcomes in China
Journal of Labor Research, 2024
[Nomination For The Best Paper Award, 1st International Workshop on the Chinese Development Mode, 2022]
with Andong Yan and Jialin Yu

Formation and Evolution of Beliefs: Famine Experience and Trust in Neighbors

with Zhian Hu and Chuanchuan Zhang

Abstract: This paper examines how the impact of traumatic experiences on contemporary trust could vary across different initial social capital levels within the context of the Confucian clan and the Great Chinese Famine. Our triple-differences analysis exploits county-level variation in famine intensity, variation in famine exposure based on birth cohorts, and geographic variation in the initial clan culture. We use soil suitability to instrument for famine intensity. We find that traumatic experiences strengthen trust among clan members in areas with high levels of initial social capital. Our findings are robust to model choice, pass placebo tests, and remain stable in a event study model.

Mass Reproducibility and Replicability: A New Hope

with Abel Brodeur, Derek Mikola, Nikolai Cook et al.

Under Review, Journal of Political Economy

Abstract: The present study pushes the boundaries of understanding research reliability by mass reproducing and replicating claims from 110 papers in leading economic and political science outlets. The analysis, involving computational reproducibility checks and robustness assessments, reveals several patterns. First, we uncover a high rate (over 85%) of fully computationally reproducible results. Second, excluding very minor errors like missing packages or paths, we uncover coding errors for about 25% of studies, with some studies containing multiple errors. Third, we test the robustness of the results to 5,494 re-analyses. We find a robustness reproducibility of 71%. Fourth, 52% of re-analysis effect size estimates are smaller than the original published estimates and the average statistical significance of a re-analysis is 77% of the original. Last, we rely on a many-analysts approach to answer eight additional research questions. Most analyst teams find a negative relationship between replicators' experience and reproducibility, while finding no relationship between reproducibility and the provision of intermediate or even raw data combined with the necessary cleaning codes.

Governor Press Release Effects on Public Beliefs and Behaviors During a Pandemic

Abstract: This research focuses on how politician's opinions, provided by local media, shape people's belief and behavior during a pandemic. Specifically, I study how state governors' press release, covered by local media, impact on people's social distancing response, belief in conspiracy theory and trust in vaccines. I use geographic variations, specifically the difference between media market boundaries and state boundaries, as quasi-random exposures to local news and politicians' press releases. My approach involves collecting data on governors' press releases and employing Natural Language Processing models such as Topic LDA and COVID-Bert to categorize news topics and measure politicians' attitudes towards COVID and related policies. Additionally, I leverage multiple waves of survey data from MIT, CMU, and Facebook, providing outcome variables such as individuals' social distancing behavior, mask usage, and vaccine intent.

Crisis Control in Top-down Bureaucracy: Evidence from China's Zero-Covid Policy
with Andong Yan and Ziao Zhao
Abstract: This study examines local Chinese officials' compliance with the zero-Covid policy during the pandemic. Using biographical data of political elites and a prefecture-day dataset on risk levels, we find that prefecture leaders' promotion incentives significantly influenced their responses to COVID-19 outbreaks. Leaders with stronger promotion incentives reacted more aggressively to emerging cases, especially during larger-scale outbreaks. Additionally, local governors in more economically developed regions enforced stricter mobility restrictions. However, in such regions, leaders with strong promotion incentives showed a balance between pandemic response and economic performance, highlighting a tension between crisis management and routine economic goals within China's political framework.

Other Publications& Technical Reports

Replication Report: A Comment on Gethin, Martínez- Toledano & Piketty (2022)
I4R Discussion Paper 19, 2023
with Olle Hammar

Currency Usage in Huizhou Region Before and After Taiping Rebellion: Evidence from Account Books
Jianghai Academic Journal. 2023,(01), in Chinese

with Weipeng Yuan

Work in progress

How does Air Pollution Affect Sleep? Survey and Social Media Evidence from the United States
with Jingyan Guo and Zhuocheng Shang

Teaching

SUNY Geneseo
Instructor

Econ 205: Business and Economic Statistics	F24
DANL 101: Introduction to Data Analytics	F24, S25
DANL 202: Intro to Programming in Python	S25
MGMT 350: Information Systems Management	F24, S25

UC Riverside
Instructor

Econ 143: Environmental Economics	Summer B 2022
Econ 153: Labor Economics	Summer A 2021

Teaching Assistant

Econ 101: Statistics for Economics	F20, W22, S22
Econ 107: Introductory Econometrics	W21, F21
Econ 104B: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory	S21
Econ 105B: Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory	S20
Econ 103: Intermediate Macroeconomics for Business	F19, W20
Econ 135: The Stock Market	F19, F22

Advising

UC Riverside
Lead Consultant   April. 2023 – June. 2024
Graduate Quantitative Methods Center

- Develop and present graduate level workshops on topics e.g. Singular Value Decomposition, Staggered Difference-in-Difference, Testing for Parallel Trends, Bootstrapping, CLT, Natural Language Processing, Topic Model, Web-scraping, Stata, Python, R, Github, Latex and more.

- Conduct daily consultations in statistics and programming to graduate students and postdoctoral scholars from a variety of disciplines, including Economics, Public Policy, Political Sciences, Mathematics, Education, Psychology, Electrical Engineering, Biology, Ecology, and Humanities.

MacRue, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences   Summer 2023

- Provide instructions on presenting data, posters, and research to underrepresented undergraduate students in STEM fields from community and 4-year colleges.

Data Science Pathways Summer Fellowship program   Summer 2023

- Provide data science training to students from community colleges and 4-year universities with diverse backgrounds.

Talks

2024
Econ of Science & Engineering Seminar, Harvard
2023
CEGA Research Retreat, UC Berkeley (Attendee); UC Riverside Applied Economics Seminar; UCSD/UCLA/CIFAR Conference on Economic Development, Political Economy, and Culture; ACLEC at UCSB; UCSD Young Scholars Conference; MacRue; WEAI 98th; Data Science Pathways; CES North America Conference
2022
6th TextXD at UC Berkeley (cancelled); SEA 92th Annual Meeting; "The Impacts of Social Media on the Health of Individuals, Communities and Society" Workshop at UCR; 1st International Workshop on the Chinese Development Model; WEAI 97th Annual Conference; CES 2022 Annual Conference
2021
Applied Graduate Student Brownbag
2017
China Economy Seminar at Harvard University

Awards & Honors

Dean's Distinguished Fellowship, UC Riverside   2018 - 2024

Travel Subsidy, Chinese Economists Society North American Conference   2023

Student Travel Grant, Graduate Student Association, UC Riverside 2022, 2023

Travel Grant, Department of Economics, UC Riverside   2022, 2023

Referee Service

Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization,
SSM - Population Health

Skills & Personal

Programming Skills and Software
STATA, Python, R, ArcGIS, LaTeX

Languages
English (fluent), Mandarin Chinese (native)

Citizenship
China, H-1B Visa

References

Joseph R. Cummins (Chair)
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Professor of Political Science
and Public Policy
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