
Jin WANG

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Academic Positions

2017–present Associate Professor, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
2010–2017 Assistant Professor, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Other Affiliations

2020–present Research Affiliate, Center for Economic Policy, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
2013–present Faculty Associate, Institute for Emerging Market studies, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
2024 Spring Sabbatical Visit, Visiting Scholar, Stanford University
2023 October Sabbatical Visit, Visiting Researcher, Imperial College London
2019 May Visiting Research Scholar, Osaka University

Education

2010 Ph.D., Economics, London School of Economics
Advisors: Oriana Bandiera, Timothy Besley
Thesis committee: Henrik Kleven, Albert Park
2007 MRes., Economics with merit, London School of Economics
2005 M.A., Economics with distinction, Tsinghua University
2003 B.A., Economics with distinction, Tsinghua University

Research Interests

Development Economics, Public Economics, Urban Economics, Chinese Economy

Research Impact

Google Scholar citation: 3,540 (h-index: 9; i10-index: 8).
Scopus citation: 2,023 (h-index: 8). Web of Science citation: 1,878.
Overton Policy citation: 188 including by the UN, World Bank, IMF, OECD, EU, and ADB.

Publications

Journal articles:

1. “Building High, Falling Short: An Empirical Assessment of Chinese Skyscrapers” (with Ziyang Chen, Ting Chen and Yatang Lin), *Journal of Urban Economics*, volume 145, 103731, 2025.

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2. “Information, Incentives and Environmental Governance: Evidence from China’s Ambient Air Quality Standards” (with Pei Li, Yi Lu and Lu Peng), *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, volume 128, 103066, 2024.
 3. “Achieving Air Pollution Control Targets with Technology-aided Monitoring: Better Enforcement or Localized Efforts?” (with Lin Yang, Yatang Lin and Fangyuan Peng), *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 16(4): 280–315, 2024.
 4. “The Effects of Fuel Standards on Air Pollution: Evidence from China” (with Pei Li and Yi Lu), *Journal of Development Economics*, volume 146, 102488, 2020.
 5. “China’s Mobility Barriers and Employment Allocations” (with L. Rachel Ngai and Christopher Pissarides), *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 17(5): 1617–1653, 2019.
– Featured in the *JEEA Editor’s choice*.
 6. “Place-Based Policies, Creation, and Agglomeration Economies: Evidence from China’s Economic Zone Program” (with Yi Lu and Lianming Zhu), *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 11(3): 325–360, 2019.
– Policy citations by the *United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, OECD, Asian Development Bank*.
– Coverage in *Chicago Policy Review*.
 7. “The Impact of Temperature on Manufacturing Worker Productivity: Evidence from Personnel Data” (with Xiqian Cai and Yi Lu), *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 46(4): 889–905, 2018.
 8. “Does Flattening Government Improve Economic Performance? Evidence from China” (with Pei Li and Yi Lu), *Journal of Development Economics*, 123: 18–37, 2016.
 9. “The Economic Impact of Special Economic Zones: Evidence from Chinese Municipalities”, *Journal of Development Economics*, 101: 133–147, 2013.
– Among the most cited articles published in JDE since 2013.
– Policy citations by the *United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, OECD, European Union, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, International Growth Centre*.

Book chapters:

“China’s Telecommunications Industry: Transformation and Challenges” (with Mingzhi Li), in Peter Wilson (ed.), *Policies and Social Welfare in the 21st Century: Challenges and Responses for China and Thailand*, Singapore: Cengage Learning Asia, 2009.

Chinese publications:

“Abolition of Agricultural Taxation, Agricultural Development and Local Government Behaviors: Evidence from County Data” (with Shuo Chen and Fang Wang), *Journal of Financial Research*, No. 4, 112–128, 2018.

“Private Sector as the Driving Force of Economic Development: Firm-level Evidence from Major Transition Economies” (with Byung-Yeon Kim and Cheng-gang Xu), *China Journal of Economics*, vol.1 (3), 57–83, 2014.

Working Papers

“Sowing Seeds of Mobility: The Uneven Impact of Land Reform” (with Ting Chen, Jiajia Gu and L. Rachel Ngai), CEPR DP20360, STEG WP119, 2025.

“Tapping into Excess Capacity: Chinese Machinery Export and African Industrialization” (with Pak Hung Lam, Yatang Lin and Fangyuan Peng), *Revise and resubmit*.

“Infrastructure, Brokers and Technology Adoption: The Introduction of American Cotton in Early 20th Century China” (with Ting Chen, Chong Liu and Han Qi), 2025.

Selected Work in Progress

“When Skilled Workforce Comes to Town: Evidence from Talent Policies in China” (with Ting Chen, Ziyang Chen and Yatang Lin).

“Breaking Barriers or Deepening Divides? Trade Liberalization and the Gender Performance Gap in Vietnamese Enterprises” (with Fatemeh Entezari, Robin Kaiji Gong and Yatang Lin).

Grants, Honors and Awards

Star faculty, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, 2025.

General Research Fund, Hong Kong Research Grants Council, **PI**, (with Jiajia Gu and L. Rachel Ngai, 2025–2026).

Institute for Emerging Market Studies Grant, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, **PI**, (with Jiajia Gu and L. Rachel Ngai, 2023–2025).

Natural Science Fund, National Natural Science Foundation, **Co-PI**, (with Pei Li, 2022–2025).

Guangdong Natural Science Fund, Natural Science Foundation of Guangdong Province, **PI**, (with Tong Liu, 2021–2024).

Center for Economic Policy Research Grant, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, **PI**, (with Yatang Lin, 2021–2023).

Structural Transformation and Economic Growth Research Grant, United Kingdom Centre for Economic Policy Research, **Co-I**, (with Jiajia Gu and L. Rachel Ngai, 2021–2023).

General Research Fund, Hong Kong Research Grants Council, **PI**, (2019–2023).

General Research Fund, Hong Kong Research Grants Council, **PI**, (with Yi Lu, 2015–2017).

Grant to the Program on Jobs and Development, World Bank, **PI**, (2015–2016).

Direct Allocation Grant, Hong Kong Research Grants Council, **PI**, (2010–2014).

Research Studentship, London School of Economics (2008–2009).

Michio Morishima Fund, London School of Economics (2008).

Vincent Cheng Scholarship, London School of Economics (2005–2008).

Scholarships for Excellent Students, Tsinghua University (1999–2004).

Conference and Seminar Presentations

2025: AEA, San Francisco*; STEG Annual Conference & Theme Workshops, Oxford University*; HKUST-GEAR Conference; Econometric Society World Congress, Seoul (scheduled); SIOE, UNSW Australia (scheduled).

2024: World Bank*; Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou); Center for Economic Policy, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

2023: Second JEEM Conference in Environmental and Resource Economics, The University of Hong Kong; SAET Conference, Paris*.

2022: Center for Economic Policy, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

2019: Jinan University; Fudan University; The University of Hong Kong; The World Bank.

2018: China Econometric Society Meeting; Australasian Development Economics Workshop, Australian National University.

Before 2017: Peking University; Hong Kong Baptist University; Tsinghua University; Jinan University; Asian Econometric Society Meeting, Kyoto; Conference on Urbanization, Structural Change, and Employment, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology; Asian Development Bank; Pacific Rim Conference, Hawaii; China Meeting of the Econometric Society, Xiamen; Asian Econometric Society Meeting, Taiwan; Seoul National University; China Meeting of the Econometric Society, Beijing; Asian Econometric Society Meeting, Singapore; Asian Development Bank Institute Summer Research Seminar; The TED conference, Fudan University; Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; The 8th Australasian Development Economics Workshop, Australia; Seoul National University; The North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society, St. Louis; The International Economics Association Sixteenth World Congress, Beijing; The Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society, Seoul; Lingnan University, Hong Kong; Royal Economic Society Conference, UK; The University of Oxford; The Shanghai University of Finance and Economics; The Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; Stanford Institute of Theoretical Economics summer workshop, Stanford University; Public Economics of the UK Conference, Warwick University; London School of Economics; The University of Hong Kong; The Chinese University of Hong Kong; The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

* by coauthors.

Editorial and Referee Service

Associate Editor, *Journal of Asian Economics*, 2021–2023.

Referee, *American Economic Review*, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *Economic Journal*, *Economica*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *European Economic Review*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Economic Growth*, *Journal of Economic Geography*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, *Journal of Regional Science*, *China Economic Review*, *The China Quarterly*, *Emerging Markets Finance and Trade*.

Teaching

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, instructor

Social Science Research Design and Methods, postgraduate level.

Research Methods in the Social Science, postgraduate level.

Economic Development in China, postgraduate level.

Poverty, undergraduate level.

Quantitative Social Analysis Practicum, undergraduate level.

Advising

PhD: Ziyang Chen (Main advisor, placement: Nanjing University, Assistant Professor, 2024); Yizhou Ye (Main advisor, placement: HKU Post-doctoral Scholar, 2024); Jing Lyu (Co-advisor, current student); Ye Lyu (Co-advisor, current student); Fangyuan Peng (Co-advisor, placement: HKU Post-doctoral Scholar, 2023).

MPhil: Wei Li (Main advisor, HKUST Economics PhD Program, 2024); Zhengchu Zhang (Co-advisor, Singapore Management University, PhD Program, 2023).

Media and Public Engagement

Sowing Seeds of Mobility: The Uneven Impact of Land Reform (with Ting Chen, Jiajia Gu and L. Rachel Ngai), *VoxChina*, July 2025.

Building Tall, Falling Short: An Empirical Assessment of Chinese Skyscrapers (with Ziyang Chen, Ting Chen and Yatang Lin), *VoxChina*, June 2025.

How New monitoring Systems Shaped China's War on Air Pollution (with Lin Yang, Yatang Lin and Fangyuan Peng), *VoxDev*, March 2024.

Tapping into Excess Capacity: Chinese Machinery Exports and African Industrialization (with Pak Hung Lam, Yatang Lin and Fangyuan Peng), *HKUST Thought Leadership Brief*, No. 82, Spring 2024.

Do Place-Based Policies Work? Lessons from China's Economic Zone Program, *HKUST Thought Leadership Brief*, No. 34, Oct 2019.

–The Chinese version (with Yi Lu and Lianming Zhu) is available in *Comparative Studies*.

China's Mobility Barriers and Employment Allocations (with L. Rachel Ngai and Christopher Pissarides), *VoxChina*, March 2018.

Special Economic Zones, Cluster, and Economic Corridor, *Asian Development Bank Knowledge Events*, May 2015.

Languages

English (fluent), Mandarin (native), Cantonese (fluent).