YUTING WANG

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental Economics, Health Economics, Political Economy, Applied Econometrics

CURRENT POSITION

2025– Postdoctoral Researcher, jointly appointed by CESAER (INRAE, Institut Agro Dijon) and GAEL (CNRS, INRAE, Université Grenoble Alpes)

EDUCATION

2020–2025 Queen Mary University of London, PhD in Economics

2019–2020 Queen Mary University of London, MRes in Economics, *with Distinction*

2018–2019 University of Bath, MRes in Economics, *with Distinction*

2014–2018 Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, BSc in Economics

VISITING POSITIONS

2023–2024 Imperial College London (hosted by Prof. Shuang Zhang)

WORKING PAPERS

Beliefs, Information Trust, and Air Pollution (Job Market Paper)

Solo-authored; under review

This paper examines how the quality of disclosures shapes public trust in official data. Using emission records from Waste-to-Energy plants in China and housing data from 92 cities, I estimate pollution beliefs through a residential sorting model. Households perceive higher and more uncertain emissions when records are flawed, despite technical explanations of the flaws. There is limited evidence of manipulation by plants, suggesting fundamental distrust. The estimated household annual willingness to pay for a one-percentage-point increase in the share of valid emission records is $1.23. The results show that low-quality disclosure discounts the value of information and erodes information trust.

Informal Networks and Collective Environmental Governance: Evidence from China's River Chief System

Solo-authored; reject and resubmit, Journal of Environmental Economics and Management

This paper examines how informal networks affect collective environmental governance when local officials are responsible for shared natural resources. I develop a tournament framework in which officials are evaluated on relative performance while facing cross-jurisdictional spillovers in collective effort. The model shows that placing greater weight on collective performance can increase collective effort provision, but that this effect may be distorted by informal ties among implementing officials. I test these predictions using China's River Chief System, a nationwide water governance reform that assigns officials responsibility for water quality and emphasizes coordination across administrative borders. Combining firm-level pollution records with biographical data on River Chiefs in the Pearl River Basin, I find that the reform reduces water pollution, with larger effects near jurisdictional boundaries. Vertical work ties between city and provincial River Chiefs amplify this pollution-reducing effect and are associated with greater policy effort. By contrast, horizontal hometown and college ties among neighboring city River Chiefs weaken the reform's effectiveness and are negatively associated with cross-border policy effort, especially among officials with stronger promotion incentives. The results show that collective accountability can partially internalize transboundary environmental externalities, but its effectiveness remains constrained by relative-ranking evaluation.

Too Hot to Stay? Residential Sorting and Unequal Climate Adaptation

(with Hélène Bouscasse, Marie Breuillé, and Sandrine Mathy)

We study whether residential mobility is an effective margin of adaptation to extreme heat and who benefits. Using French administrative microdata linked to fine scale temperature records, we estimate the causal impact of heatwaves on migration. One additional heatwave day leads to a 0.088 percentage point higher overall likelihood of migration to cooler municipalities. Responses are strongest for short distance moves and moves preserving workplaces, and most moves are between municipalities with similar residential environments. Relocation yields substantial and persistent reductions in exposure, with similar gains across groups among movers. Unequal mobility drives inequality in benefits, as the most responsive 20% of households capture over 40% of gains.

Aggregating Many Estimators Using Estimated Weights

(with Emmanuel Guerre)

Under review

Consider an increasing number of consistent estimators to be averaged when only estimated weights are available. The underlying parameter of interest can be identical across estimators (homogeneity) or not (heterogeneity). The contribution of the paper is threefold. First, it is shown that the interaction of the estimated weights with the estimators can generate specific bias terms. This constrains the number of estimators that can be aggregated when weight estimation is ignored in inference. Second, the paper proposes estimated adaptive weights, which allow for standard Gaussian inference in a uniform manner and are asymptotically optimal both under homogeneity and heterogeneity. Third, conditions ensuring the validity of the Cochran (1937) Q test of homogeneity with estimated variance are given.

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

Generative AI and the Gender Welfare Gap (with Shuang Zhang, Rachel Ngai, and Fei Wu)

A Home for Tomorrow: Climate Expectations Revealed by Housing Choices (with Hélène Bouscasse)

Clearing the Air on Used Vehicles (with Yunyu Shu and Eddy Zou)

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

2026	15th Energy and Climate Economics Conference (TSE); Shanghai University of Finance and Economics; 74th ASFE Annual Congress
2025	ESWC 2025; China SMUE 2025 (PKU); EAERE 2025; IPWSD (Columbia); China Economics Study Group (Warwick);
2024	JRD Workshop (UCL); NePE 2024 (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne); EAERE Summer School;
2023	EAERE 2023; RES and SES 2023 Annual Conference;
2022	47th SAEe; ASPEC PhD Conference (Reading);
2021	Annual PhD Conference (QMUL)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Associate at Queen Mary University of London:

2024	Environmental Economics
2023, 2024	World Economy
2023	Mathematical Methods in Economics and Finance
2021, 2023, 2025	Statistical Methods in Economics
2021, 2022, 2023	Elements of Accounting
2022	Capital Markets

REFEREE ACTIVITY

Management Science, Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, Economic Modelling

PAST RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022–2025 Research Assistant, Prof. Shuang Zhang (Imperial College London)

2022–2025 Research Assistant, Prof. Douglas Almond (Columbia University)

HONORS AND AWARDS

2020–2023	PhD Scholarship, Queen Mary University of London
2019–2020	MRes Scholarship, Queen Mary University of London
2024	EAERE Summer School Travel Grant
2022	SAEe Conference Grant

OTHERS

Additional Training	BSE Summer School, EAERE Summer School
Software	Stata, ArcGIS, LaTeX, R
Language	Chinese (native), Hokkien (native), English (fluent)
Activities	Organiser, QMUL Economics and Finance Workshop (2023)
Certificate	CFA Level III Candidate

REFERENCES

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