

# Wensu Li

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## Research Fields

Environmental Economics, Labor Economics

## Education

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Ph.D., Economics, 2021 (Expected)

Sun Yat-sen University, Guangdong, China

M.A., Finance, 2014

Sun Yat-sen University, Guangdong, China

B.A., Economics, 2012

## Working Papers

“Is working from home a way of adaptation to climate change?” (Job Market Paper)

“Revisiting international waste trade from a perspective of waste quality.”

“Household energy consumption burst in developing countries: Implications for GHG mitigation.”

## Work in Progress

“Work Arrangements and Inequality under COVID-19”

“China’s Waste Imports Ban: Stringency, Spillover, and Smuggling”

## Publications

Huang B, Lian Y, Li W. “How far is Chinese left-behind parents' health left behind?” *China Economic Review*, 2016, 37: 15-26.

Lian Y, Li W, Huang B. “The impact of children migration on the health and life satisfaction of parents left behind.” *China Economic Quarterly*, 2014, 14(1): 185-202.

## Professional Activities

2017 Instructor of Early College Experience Economics Program Workshop, UConn

“What to teach about climate change in principle economics classes?”

2016 Referee for *China Economic Review*

2016 Participant of Berkeley/Sloan Summer School in Environmental and Energy Economics

## **Presentations**

2018 & 2019 IO, Environmental, and Law Economics Workshop, University of Connecticut  
2013 China Economic Quarterly Annual Workshop, Peking University

## **Research Experience**

2019 Fall Research Assistant to Michele Baggio  
2015 Spring-Fall Research Assistant to Jorge Agüero

## **Teaching Experience**

### *Instructor*

2017 Spring ECON 2311: Empirical Methods in Economics (Econometrics)

### *Teaching Assistant*

2020 Spring ECON 2311: Empirical Methods in Economics (Econometrics lab course)  
2018 Spring & 2017 Fall & 2016 Spring ECON 1201: Principles of Microeconomics  
2016 Fall ECON 1202: Principles of Macroeconomics  
2015 Fall ECON 6201: Microeconomic Theory I

## **Awards**

2016, 2017, 2020 Timothy A. & Beverly C. Holt Fellowship for academic achievement  
2016, 2020 Eleanor Bloom Summer Research Fellowship  
2012 Outstanding Graduate Award (Top 5%), Sun Yat-sen University  
2012 Outstanding Bachelor Thesis (Top 10%)  
*“Correlation between regional CO2 emissions and economic incidence of carbon policy”*

## **Skills**

Statistical Packages: Stata (Proficient), Python, Matlab

Language: English (fluent), Chinese (native), Cantonese (native)

## References

### **Kathleen Segerson**

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## Job Market Paper

### **“Is Working from Home a Way of Adaptation to Climate Change?”**

The increase in the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events is one of the consequences of global warming. Investigating the impacts of extreme weather on people’s work patterns in the context of work flexibility helps us to better evaluate and adapt to climate change. This paper links the data from American Time Use Survey with Storm Database from NOAA to examine how extreme weather changes people's work patterns. The results show that job flexibility plays an important role in shaping people's adaptation to extreme weather. For workers that have the flexibility to work at home, during extreme events, about 45 minutes of work time is shifted from their workplace to their home on business days. Extreme weather events decrease the probability of going out to work by 12.2% on average. However, no such location adaptation is detected for workers with little job flexibility. In terms of total work time, extreme weather events reduce labor supply by a small amount of 9 minutes, with this time reallocated to leisure. These findings suggest that job flexibility policies, such as working at home, could be an effective tool of adaptation to climate change because it offers a choice to avoid the risks associated with commuting to work under extreme weather conditions.

**Keywords:** climate change, extreme weather, job flexibility, work at home

## Working Papers

### **“Revisiting International Waste Trade from a Perspective of Waste Quality”**

This paper analyzes international waste trade from the perspective of waste quality. The rapid growth of international waste trade in the last two decades has raised concerns about the less developed countries becoming pollution havens. While the literature has focused on whether to put a total ban on waste trade, China's recent adjustment of quality standard for waste imports greatly influenced the recycling industry throughout the world, showing the power and potential of quality-based waste policies. This paper specifies the waste quality of the traded recyclables. A

theoretical model is constructed to analyze the impacts of free trade on not only the quantity but also the quality of the recyclables. Using a North-South trade framework, the model demonstrates that the imbalanced distribution of environmental benefits and costs associated with the recycling industry for different countries is the motivation behind some unilateral quality-based border policies. This paper further examines the implications of quality-based policies and derive the optimal choice of its stringency.

**Keywords:** recycling, waste quality, international trade, pollution haven

### **“Household Energy Consumption Burst in Developing Countries: Implications for GHG Mitigation”**

This paper explains energy consumption growth patterns in developing countries by household electrical appliance ownership. The developing world is exceeding developed countries in carbon emission. China and India rank the largest and the fourth largest in carbon emissions in the world, and the growth of emissions from these two countries is still among the fastest. One challenge in predicting energy consumption and setting mitigation goals for developing countries is that energy use does not increase proportionally with the income growth - the growth begins slowly and is followed by a burst in energy consumption, which then slows down again. This paper constructs a theoretical model to investigate the relationship between household electrical appliance acquisition and household energy consumption. The model ascribes the burst in electricity consumption to a period when the income level of households reaches the level that allows them to acquire electrical appliances for the first time. The theoretical predictions are further validated empirically using the survey data from China Family Panel Studies (CFPS).

**Keywords:** electricity consumption, electrical appliances, developing countries

## **Pre-doctoral Publications**

**“How Far is Chinese Left-behind Parents' Health Left Behind?”** with Bihong Huang, Yujun Lian. *China Economic Review*, 2016, 37: 15-26.

Using data from the four waves of the China Health and Nutrition Survey (CHNS), this paper assesses the impacts of adult children migration on the health of their parents left behind. We employ the endogenous treatment effects model to address the selection bias and infer the causal effects of children migration on parental health. We find that children migration significantly impairs the health of their elderly kin. Moreover, children migration has remarkably differentiated locality, gender, age, and employment impacts, with rural, female, old-aged, and unemployed parents being more likely to suffer from poor health than their urban, male, middle-aged, and employed counterparts.

**Keywords:** health, elderly, migration, China

**“The Impact of Children Migration on the Health and Life Satisfaction of Parents Left Behind.”** (In Chinese) with Bihong Huang, Yujun Lian. *China Economic Quarterly*, 2014, 14(1): 185-202.

This paper studies the effect of adult children migration on the parents left behind, using an IV ordered Probit model on two cross-sections (2006 and 2009) in the China Health and Nutrition Survey (CHNS). To resolve the potential endogeneity problem, we introduced two instrumental variables, the unemployment rate and the populational structure of the labor force. We find that left-behind parents who have migrant children are likely to have poorer self-reported health and life satisfaction.

**Keywords:** health, elderly, migration, China