

Licheng Xu

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Agricultural & Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin, 2022 (expected)
M.Sc. Agricultural & Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin, 2018
M.A. (with honor) Agricultural Economics & Management, Renmin University of China, 2017
B.A. Agricultural Economics & Management, Renmin University of China, 2014

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Public Economics, Development Economics, Agricultural Economics, Applied Econometrics

DISSERTATION

Three Essays on the Policy-induced Effects on Household Welfare and Community Development
Committee: Xiaodong Du (Chair), Jean-Paul Chavas, Yang Wang

JOB MARKET PAPER

“Timing of SNAP Disbursement and Crime Incidence in the United States,” Selected Paper
Presentation at ASSA 2022 Virtual Annual Meeting [Dissertation Paper I]

Abstract: Welfare payments help combat poverty and hunger, and thereby potentially contribute to the reduction of financially motivated crimes. Taking the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as an example, this study explores whether and how variations in the timing of food assistance distribution affect crime incidence. Using an extensive incident-based crime dataset from reporting police agencies in 36 states between 2000 and 2017, I estimate the reduced-form effect of staggering SNAP benefit disbursement across recipients on crime incidence. The empirical result suggests a significantly lower incidence of financially motivated crimes (robbery and burglary in particular) when the state-level SNAP disbursement schedule incorporates more distribution days and a longer staggering period (the number of days between the first and last distribution date). I also find evidence for effect heterogeneity by policy stringency and population density. Additionally, county-level analysis suggests that reduced severity of food insecurity may be the mechanism through which staggered SNAP benefit distribution helps reduce crime incidence. On the other hand, the incidence of emotion-driven crimes, such as property destruction cases, is not much affected by the timing of SNAP benefit disbursement. The findings of this study point to an extended SNAP disbursement schedule with more distribution days to deter financially motivated crimes.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Xu, L., and Du, X. (2022). “Land Certification, Rental Market Participation, and Household Welfare in Rural China,” *Agricultural Economics*, 53(1), 52-71. [Dissertation Paper II]

Lin, H., Fang, P., Zhou, L., and **Xu, L.** (2019). “A Relational View of Self-protection amongst China’s Food Safety Crises,” *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, 40(1), 131-142.

(Note: Please visit my website for the full list of publications, including those written in Chinese.)

WORKING PAPERS

“Migrant Remittances: Mixed Motives and the Impact on Household Welfare,” Selected Paper Presentation at CES 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting & Selected Poster Presentation at ASSA 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting [Dissertation Paper III]

“Do Income Transfer Distribution Schedules Affect Intimate Partner Violence: Evidence from the SNAP Program,” Selected Paper Presentation at AAEA 2021 Annual Meeting (Joint work with Kaitlyn M. Sims, Yang Wang and Barbara Wolfe)

“Risk Preference, Farm Diversification and Crop Selection: Evidence from China,” Selected Paper Presentation at AAEA 2021 Annual Meeting

“Land Certification, Rental Market Participation and Dynamics of Income Structure in rural China,” Selected Paper Presentation at AAEA 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting

“Timing of SNAP Payment and Crime Rate in the U.S.,” Selected Paper Presentation at AAEA 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, AAE 322: *Commodity Market*, University of Wisconsin, Spring 2019

Teaching Assistant, Math 234: *Calculus 3 - Functions of Variables*, University of Wisconsin, Fall 2017

Teaching Assistant, *Intermediate Macroeconomics*, Renmin University of China, Fall 2015

Teaching Assistant, *From Field to Table: Issues in the Chinese Food System*, Renmin University of China, Summer 2015

RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Prof. Yang Wang, University of Wisconsin, Fall 2019 – Spring 2022 (expected)

Project Assistant, Moodle / D2L to Canvas Data Migration, University of Wisconsin, Spring 2018

Research Assistant, Prof. Guanming Shi, University of Wisconsin, Summer 2017

Research Assistant, Prof. Xiaodong Du, University of Wisconsin, Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

SELECTED AWARDS AND PRIZES

Student Research Grants Competition Award (Conference Presentation), Graduate School, University of Wisconsin, February 2021

Barbara Forrest Research Paper Prize (for pre-dissertators), Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin, March 2019

Outstanding Master’s Graduate, Renmin University of China, June 2017

CSA Annual Academic Conference Outstanding Paper Award (Tier II), Chinese Sociological Association, July 2015

Cheng Zhou Agricultural Economics Award (Tier II), Beijing Association of Agricultural Economics, December 2014

National Scholarship for College Students, China’s Ministry of Education, November 2013

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2022 ASSA Virtual Annual Meeting, Selected Paper Presentation

2021 CES Virtual Annual Meeting, Selected Paper Presentation

2021 ASSA Virtual Annual Meeting, Selected Poster Presentation

2021 AAEA Annual Meeting, Selected Paper Presentation (2 papers)

2020 AAEA Virtual Annual Meeting, Selected Paper Presentation (2 papers)

COMPUTER SKILLS

STATA, MATLAB, SPSS, LaTeX, MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Country of citizenship: China

Date of Birth: 03/10/1992

Languages: Mandarin Chinese (native), English (fluent), French (basic)

REFERENCES

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