Junni Pan

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EDUCATION

Purdue University West Lafayette, IN, USA

Ph.D. in Economics (GPA: 3.87/4.0) 2021–2026 (expected)

Committee: Ben Zou (Chair), Victoria Prowse, Yong Bao, Kevin Mumford

M.S. in Economics 2024

Xiamen University Xiamen, China

M.A. in Economics (GPA: 3.81/4.0, Ranked 1/66) 2017–2020

South China University of Technology Guangzhou, China

B.A. in Economics (GPA: 3.95/4.0, Ranked 2/95) 2013–2017

FIELDS OF INTERESTS

Labor Economics; Urban Economics; Applied Microeconometrics

PUBLICATIONS

"Spatial Clustering of Natural Disasters, Selection in Migration, and Economic Outcomes," Forthcoming at ***Economic Development and Cultural Change*** (**link**)

WORKING PAPERS

"Migration Restrictions, College Choices, and Spatial Skill Sorting," Job Market Paper

"A Spatial General Equilibrium Model of College Choices with Idiosyncratic Matches," with Ben Zou (in progress)

PRESENTATIONS (* indicates scheduled)

American Economic Association (AEA) Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, PA 2026

Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Meeting*, Tampa, FL 2025

Western Economic Association International (WEAI) Annual Meeting, virtual day 2025

Midwest Economics Association (MEA) Annual Meetings, Kansas City, MO 2025

KDSA Research Symposium, West Lafayette, IN 2024

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Purdue University

ECON 251 Microeconomics Summer 2024 (Online), Fall 2024 (In-Person)

Teaching Assistant, Purdue University

ECON 251 Microeconomics Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025

ECON 456 Urban Economics Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025

ECON 252 Macroeconomics — Fall 2024
ECON 352 Intermediate Macroeconomics — Fall 2021
ECON 590 Federal Budget — Summer 2023

High School Math & English Teacher, Xiamen, China — July 2020–June 2021
New Oriental (*NYSE: EDU; HKEX: 9901*)
— Prepared Students for China's National College Entrance Examination (*Gaokao*)

Teaching Assistant, Xiamen University
Mathematical Economics (Ph.D. and Master's Level) — Fall 2018
Principles of Accounting — Fall 2017

AWARDS AND HONORS

Distinguished Teaching Award (Fall) and Outstanding Teaching Award (Summer) 2024
Best Presentation Winner Award, KDSA Research Symposium 2024
James A. Papke Graduate Fellowship for the Study of Public Sector Economics 2023
Excellent Graduate Award, Xiamen University 2020
Hongxin Scholarship (Ranked 1/66), Xiamen University 2019
National Scholarship, China 2018
China Construction Bank Scholarship, Xiamen University 2018
Excellent Undergraduate Thesis Award, South China University of Technology 2017
Excellence in Student Leadership Award, South China University of Technology 2016

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant (RA), Purdue University
RA to Professor Ben Zou — Summer 2023, Spring 2025
RA to Professor Mario Crucini — Summer 2022, Fall 2022
RA to Professor Seungki Hong — Fall 2022
RA to Professor Joe Mazur — Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Summer 2022

Referee for
Journal of Quantitative Economics

Leadership and Service
Intern team leader, Agricultural Bank of China, Guangzhou — March 2017–June 2017
Department head, General Affairs Department, Student Red Cross, South China University of Technology — September 2014–July 2015

SKILLS

Programming: Stata, MATLAB, ArcGIS, LaTeX, Python
Language: English (fluent), Chinese (native)

REFERENCES

Professor Ben Zou (Chair)
Department of Economics
Purdue University
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Professor Victoria Prowse
Department of Economics
Purdue University
Email: vprowse@purdue.edu

Professor Yong Bao
Department of Economics
Purdue University
Email: ybao@purdue.edu

Professor Kevin Mumford
Department of Economics
Purdue University
Email: mumford@purdue.edu

Professor Melanie Fox (Teaching reference)
Department of Economics
Purdue University
Email: mefox@purdue.edu

Abstracts

Spatial Clustering of Natural Disasters, Selection in Migration, and Economic Outcomes
Forthcoming at *Economic Development and Cultural Change*

This paper shows that natural disasters with higher spatial clustering are associated with positive selection in migration. Focusing on extreme precipitation events in rural Chinese counties, I analyze their effects using census and rainfall data within a difference-in-differences framework. The results show that natural disasters significantly increase out-migration, primarily by worsening local economic conditions. More spatially clustered disasters induce stronger response from younger, male, and better-educated individuals, who are associated with longer migration distances and better economic outcomes. A migration decision model suggests that more spatially clustered disasters may exacerbate inequalities in mobility. Targeted subsidies for individuals with lower productivity and higher migration costs could help promote more equitable access to economic opportunities.

Migration Restrictions, College Choices, and Spatial Skill Sorting
(Job Market Paper)

College education is widely regarded as a pathway to local labor markets because of migration frictions. This paper examines how such frictions shape college choices in China, where labor mobility is constrained by both formal migration restrictions and informal barriers. Using a national administrative dataset on four-year college admissions from 2005 to 2011, I show that relaxing migration restrictions through *hukou* reforms enabled colleges in reformed cities to attract higher-quality students. The largest gains occurred in colleges located in economically more developed cities relative to students' origins, consistent with the mechanism of improved local labor market prospects. Counterfactual analysis based on a college choice model further demonstrates that easing migration restrictions in major cities reshaped student sorting across colleges and raised aggregate welfare. Aggregate welfare increased further in a scenario where students could access the highest-paying labor markets without migration frictions. However, the welfare gains were unevenly distributed: while many students benefited, those crowded out of their preferred colleges in major cities faced substantial utility losses when only formal restrictions were removed. These findings have broader implications for migration policies—both formal and market-based—in shaping spatial skill sorting and the distribution of welfare.