Qi Zhang

 qi-zhang | ⊕ qizhangecon.github.io | ✉ qz4vg@virginia.edu | ▪ 781-827-1647

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Virginia   May 2026 (expected)
   Fields of Interest: Applied Microeconomics, International Trade
   Committee: Kerem Coşar, James Harrigan, Peter Debaere

M.S. in Economics, Tufts University   May 2020

B.S. in Labor Economics & Social Security, Zhejiang University   May 2018

Research Experience

Pollution Haven Next Door: Evidence from China

Job Market Paper   Link

- Built a city–sector panel from firm & emissions microdata to study environmental regulation and cross-border leakage.
- Identification: Synthetic Difference-in-Difference (SDID) & triple-difference to estimate policy effects and neighbor spillovers.
- Finding: regulation shifted pollution-intensive activity to neighboring regions, led by state-owned enterprises (SOEs).

First in Use, First in Right, First in Productivity? The Empirics of Prior Appropriation in Colorado

*Peter Debaere, Tianshu Li, **Qi Zhang**, Mesfin Mekonnen, Swatantra Sharma*

- Built a structure–level panel for the Colorado River to study water allocation under prior appropriation.
- Identification: IV design leveraging river topology to test whether water flows to more productive uses.

Making a Call on the River: Water Use in the Colorado River Basin

***Qi Zhang**, Peter Debaere, Tianshu Li (Work in Progress)*

Professional Experience

Research Assistant, University of Virginia   2023–Present

- Built and maintained a reproducible geospatial data pipeline linking diversion structures, rights, and withdrawals.
- Conducted statistical analysis and produced publication-ready figures and tables.
- Provided feedback on draft manuscripts and collaborated across teams.

Research Assistant, Tufts University   2019–2020

- Cleaned long-run Philippine public datasets; ran panel regressions on electricity infrastructure and firm outputs.
- Assisted in a two-sector model exploring how electrification mitigates temperature shocks; produced figures/tables.

Teaching Assistant, University of Virginia   2021–2024

Courses: Introduction to Econometrics (applied econometrics; Stata labs), Intermediate Microeconomics, Principles of Microeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics

- Led discussion/lab sections; graded problem sets and exams.
- Held weekly office hours; mentored undergraduates on research ideation, causal inference, and writing clarity.

Honors and Awards

Varkey Family Endowed Fellowship	Tufts University	2019
Department of Economics Summer Scholarship	Tufts University	2019

Skills

Programming	Stata, R, Python, ArcGIS, LaTeX, SQL
Methods	Causal inference (DiD/SDID, IV/2SLS, event study), Randomization inference (permutation tests), Jackknife, Geospatial analysis
Languages	Chinese (native), English (fluent)