

Qi Zhang

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Education

Ph.D. in Economics	University of Virginia	May 2026 (expected)
M.S. in Economics	Tufts University	May 2020
B.S. in Labor Economics & Social Security	Zhejiang University	May 2018

Research Experience

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Applied Microeconomics, International Trade

COMMITTEE: Kerem Coşar, James Harrigan, Peter Debaere

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).

The Empirics of Prior Appropriation in the Colorado River Basin

Work in progress (with Peter Debaere and Tianshu Li)

- 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.

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 and linked long-run Philippine public datasets; ran panel regressions on electricity infrastructure and growth.
- 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, SQL, ArcGIS Pro, LaTeX
Methods	Causal inference (DiD/SDID, IV/2SLS, event study), Randomization inference (permutation tests), Jackknife, Geospatial analysis
Languages	Chinese (native), English (fluent)