

Shan Zhang

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ANALYSIS GROUP

111 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02199

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Dear Hiring Committee,

I am currently a 4th year Ph.D. candidate in Economics at the University of Oregon. I am writing to express interest in the position of Analysis Group Summer Analyst Intern.

My Ph.D. research revolves around evaluating the Willingness To Pay (WTP) of individuals for public health policies to reduce illnesses and avoid premature deaths in their communities. In the project "Willingness to Bear the Costs of Preventative Public Health Measures" in collaboration with my advisor Trudy Ann Camerom, I estimated a discrete choice model with county-level characteristics data. I transferred my estimated model to the context of the 2020-21 COVID-19 pandemic. I calculated that the aggregate WTP to avoid numbers of generic cases and deaths from March 2020 to April 2021 is about 3 trillion dollars in the U.S. In another project, I estimate the effects of environmental regulations on local environmental outcomes and social justice implications. In "Causal Inference in the Economics of Policies for Recycling", I study the effects of China's Green Sword (GS) Policy (an import ban on all recyclable wastes) on the U.S. recycling industry and local environmental outcomes. I find that many states have seen increased methane emissions after the GS policy took effect. I find that prior to the policy, pollution (wastes) often flowed to suburbs and communities with higher populations of minorities. After China's GS policy, the flow of pollution continued to increase into minority communities. However, lower-income white communities experienced greater increases in pollution inflows after the foreign policy shock.

In addition to academic research, I am also involved in organizing and participating in public seminars as well as social groups. I am currently the co-president of Women In Economics at the University of Oregon, to support and assist women to succeed in Economics. I am leading discussions in an environmental economics seminar at the University of Oregon which provides environmental economic researchers a platform to present their research, and get feedback from others within the group. At the same time, I participate in three other economics seminars weekly and give feedback to my colleagues on their work. I have mentored first year graduate students and shared advice and resources with them in preparation for their qualification exams. I have also taught Economics classes at the University of Oregon and spoken at different Economics conferences in the past years. Outside of school, I host a weekly graduate student support group with seven doctorate students from different departments, in which we meet for various activities for bonding and encouraging one another.

My research specialties, communication and teamwork skills fit well the Analysis Group summer intern position. Given my knowledge in econometrics, software (R) coding experience in statistical model estimation, and communication and social skills, I believe I can contribute to your program. I prefer locations on the West coast of the U.S. Thank you very much for considering my application. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Shan Zhang