

XIANG ZHANG

last update: March, 2025

1265 Military Trail, Toronto, ON, Canada, M1C 1A4

xiangshawn.zhang@utoronto.ca ◊ Personal Webpage

EMPLOYMENT

University of Toronto, Scarborough

March 2025 – Present

Postdoctoral Fellow

Department of Sociology

Advisors: Patricia Romero-Lankao

Project: Canadian Excellence in Research Chair project for the Network for Equity in Sustainability Transitions (CERC NEST)

EDUCATION

McGill University

September 2018 – February 2025

Ph.D. in Geography

Department of Geography

Advisors: Brian E Robinson & Chris Barrington-Leigh

Thesis title: Pushed Into Cleaner Energy: An Evaluation of the Household Well-being Impacts of Beijing's "Clean Heating Policy"

Peking University

September 2015 – July 2018

M.S. in Environmental Economics

College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering

Advisors: Shiqiu Zhang & Hancheng Dai

Thesis title: The Environmental Economic Analysis of "Coal to Clean Energy" Policy in the Residential Sector: A Case Study in the Jing-Jin-Ji Region

Beijing Forestry University

September 2011 – July 2015

B.A. in Agricultural & Forestry Economics & Management

School of Economics and Management

PUBLICATIONS

Journal publications

- Lin H, **Zhang X**, Hu Y, Zhang S. Unacknowledged health costs of subway transportation: Commuting time dominant environmental inequality in PM2.5 exposure. *Journal of Transport & Health*, 2024, 38: 101865. [Available here](#).
- **Zhang X**, Barrington-Leigh C, Robinson B E. Rural household energy transition in China: Trends and challenges. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 2024, 450: 141871. [Available here](#).
- **Zhang X**, Jin Y, Dai H, et al. Health and economic benefits of cleaner residential heating in the Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei region in China. *Energy Policy*, 2019, 127: 165-178. [Available here](#). *ESI 1% Highly Cited Paper in May 2023*.
- **Zhang X**, Dai H, Jin Y, et al. Evaluation of Health and Economic Benefits from "Coal to Electricity" Policy in the Residential Sector in the Jing-Jin-Ji Region. *Acta Scientiarum Naturalium Universitatis Pekinensis*, 2019, 55(2): 367-376. [Available here](#).

- **Zhang, X.**, Jiang, X., The Impact of Collective Forest Tenure Reform on Under-forest Economy: Based on the Monitoring of Collective Forest Tenure Reform in LiaoNing. *Forestry Economics*, 2014, 7, 36-41;54.
- Li X, Baumgartner J, Barrington-Leigh C, et al. Socioeconomic and demographic associations with wintertime air pollution exposures at household, community, and district scales in rural Beijing, China. *Environmental Science & Technology*, 2022, 56(12): 8308-8318. [Available here.](#)
- Li X, Baumgartner J, Harper S, et al. Field measurements of indoor and community air quality in rural Beijing before, during, and after the COVID-19 lockdown. *Indoor air*, 2022, 32(8): e13095. [Available here.](#)
- Sternbach T J, Harper S, Li X, et al. Effects of indoor and outdoor temperatures on blood pressure and central hemodynamics in a wintertime longitudinal study of Chinese adults. *Journal of Hypertension*, 2022, 40(10): 1950-1959. [Available here.](#)

Working papers

- **Zhang X**, Chris Barrington-Leigh and Brian Robinson. 2024. Household Energy Transition and Subjective Well-being: A Difference-in-Difference Estimate of Outcomes in Rural North China. in preparation
- **Zhang X**, Chris Barrington-Leigh and Brian Robinson. 2024. Expenditure versus comfort: distributional impacts on household space heating energy transition program in rural China. in preparation
- Yuan W, Li X, Brehmer C, et al. 2025. Effects of outdoor and household air pollution on hand grip strength in a longitudinal study of predominantly rural Beijing adults. under review
- Ma J, Zhu X, et al. 2025. Investigating Indoor Voc Complexities in Rural Beijing: Environmental, Resident Behavioral, and Household Energy-Use Paradigms. under review
- Li X, Brehmer C, Hirst K, et al. 2025. Multi-year, Field-based Assessment on the Impacts of a Coal-to-Clean-Energy Policy (CCEP) on Indoor, Outdoor, and Personal Exposure to PM2.5 in Beijing, China. in preparation
- Sternbach T. et al. 2025. China's Clean Heating Policy and Effects on Blood Pressure. in preparation
- Brehmer C, Sternbach T, Byambadorj E. et al. 2025. Impacts of a clean heating program on heating stove usage in Northern China. in preparation

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Rathlyn Fieldwork Award, McGill University, Canada, 2021

Theo Hills Memorial Award, McGill University, Canada, 2021

Dr. and Mrs. Milton Leong Fellowship in Science, McGill University, Canada, 2019

Theo Hills Memorial Award, McGill University, Canada, 2019
Rathlyn Fieldwork Award, McGill University, Canada, 2018
Scholarship for Special Academic, Peking University, China, 2016
Beijing Excellent Undergraduate, Beijing Forestry University, China, 2015
National TOP10 Forestry Graduate, Nanjing, Jiangsu, China, 2014
China National Scholarship, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China, China, 2013
Merit Student, Beijing Forestry University, Beijing, China, 2013
Special Grade Scholarship for Freshman, Beijing Forestry University, Beijing, China, 2012

CONFERENCE

2024 Oral presentation at 58th Canadian Economics Association, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
2023 Oral presentation at 57th Canadian Economics Association, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.
2022 Oral presentation at 69th Annual North American Regional Science Council (NARSC), Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
2017 Oral presentation at Congress of East Asian Association of Environmental and Resource Economics (AAERE), Singapore.
2016 Congress of East Asian Association of Environmental and Resource Economics (AAERE), Fukuoka, Japan.
2015 Poster presentation at Congress of East Asian Association of Environmental and Resource Economics (AAERE), Taipei, Taiwan, China.
2015 Oral presentation at 5th Congress of Professional Association of China's Environment (PACE), Nanjing, Jiangsu, China.

TEACHING & ADVISING

McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

2023 TA: GEOG 409 — Geographies of Developing Asia (Fall, Instructor: Prof. Sarah Turner)
2022 TA: GEOG 408 — Geography of Development (Fall, Instructor: Prof. Jon Unruh)
2021 TA: GEOG 360 — Analyzing Sustainability (Winter, Instructor: Prof. Brian Robinson)
2020 TA: GEOG 408 — Geography of Development (Fall, Instructor: Prof. Jon Unruh)
2019 TA: GEOG 351 — Quantitative Methods (Winter, Instructor: Professor Sebastien Breau)
2018 TA: GEOG 408 — Geography of Development (Fall, Instructor: Prof. Jon Unruh)

Peking University, Beijing, China

2015–2017 Coordinator of the Environmental Economics and Policy Group (EEPS) Weekly Workshop
2017 TA: China in Transition, Graduate of Yenching Academy (Spring, Instructor: Professor Shiqiu Zhang)
2017 TA: Environmental Management Policy and Practice (Short course, Dr. Eugene Y. Leong)
2015–2017 TA: Environmental Economics, graduate level (Fall, Instructor: Professor Shiqiu Zhang)
2016–2017 TA: Environmental Management, undergraduate level (Spring, Instructor: Professor Shiqiu Zhang)

REFEREEING

Referee for *Nature Sustainability; Environmental Research Letters; Environmental Research: Health; Environmental Research Communications; Annals of the American Association of Geographers; Economic Analysis and Policy; Energy Policy*

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2017 Research Assistant, Experiment “Choosing between Spending on Public Goods and Private Goods”, Organized by the University of Cape Town, Peking University and the Graduate Institute of Geneva, Beijing, China.

2016 Translation of Lucas Bretschger’s book “Green Economy, Graying Society”.

2014 Research Assistant, Survey of “Monitoring of National Forest Tenure Reform in Heilongjiang Province”, Beijing Forestry University, Beijing, China.

2013 Research Assistant, Survey of “Monitoring of Collective Forest Tenure Reform in LiaoNing Province”, Beijing Forestry University, Beijing, China.

EXTRA TRAINING

2017 Human Health Risk Assessment Training Workshop, School of Public Health-Bloomington Indiana University, Beijing, China.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Computer Skills

Stata, R(dplyr, tidyverse, ggplot2, fixest), Eviews, SPSS, Latex, ArcGIS, QGIS, GAINS, Microsoft Office

Languages

Chinese: Native; English: Full Professional ; French: Elementary

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS OR AFFILIATIONS

2023 – 2024 Canadian Economic Association (CEA)

2015 – 2017 East Asian Association of Environmental and Resource Economics (EAAERE)

REFERENCES

Brian E Robinson

Department of Geography,
McGill University
805 Sherbrooke Street West,
Montréal, QC, Canada H3A 0B9
Tel: +1-514-398-3453
Email: brian.e.robinson@mcgill.ca

Chris Barrington-Leigh

Department of Equity, Ethics, and Policy,
McGill University
2001 Avenue McGill,
Montreal, Québec, Canada H3A 1G1
Tel: +1-438-238-4659
Email: chris.barrington-leigh@mcgill.ca

Shiqiu Zhang

College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering,
Peking University
No.5 Yiheyuan Road, Haidian District
Beijing, P.R. China 100871
Tel: +86(0)1062764974
Email: zhangshq@pku.edu.cn

RESEARCH FIELD

Environmental economics, policy evaluation, household energy, sustainable development