

CHENXI TANG

Email: chenxit2@illinois.edu

Phone: +1 2177218490

1407 W Gregory Dr, Urbana, Illinois 61801

EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, United States
Ph.D. in Economics

Expected May 2025

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, United States
M.S. in Economics

2020

Dalian University of Technology, China
B.S. in Mathematics
B.A. in Economics

2018

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Development Economics, Environmental Economics, Labor Economics, Economic History

RESEARCH

Job Market Paper

[“The Long-run Impacts of Ancient Chinese Civil Exams on Contemporary Local Innovation”](#)

Abstract: China was historically heavily influenced by civil exams (*keju*), with the exams focused on recruiting the best academic individuals to serve in government. This paper explores the relationship between prefectures with historically more top scorers on the national exam (*jinshi*) between 1371 and 1905 and contemporary innovation, measured as the number of top scientists and engineers and the number of patents and their quality, finding a strong positive relationship. Results are robust to using an instrumental variable strategy that measures the minimum river distance from each prefecture to the nearest pine and bamboo forest. A doubling of the number of historically top scorers on the national exam leads to a 33% increase in the number of top scientists and engineers and a 92% increase in the number of patents. Investments in military equipment and telegraph construction play crucial roles sustaining the long-term effects of China’s civil exams.

Other Working Papers

[“The Causal Effects of Pollution on the Mortality of People at Different Ages. Evidence from Mexico City”](#)

Abstract: Previous literature examines the effects of pollution on the health of infants and the elderly in developed countries. However, little is known about the acute effects of pollution on the elderly in developing countries. This research fills this gap in the literature by using the meteorological phenomenon of thermal inversion as an instrumental variable to investigate the acute effects of both PM₁₀ and CO on elderly individuals in Mexico City. Results reveal that PM₁₀ and CO both significantly increase the mortality of elderly people, with the largest effect sizes seen for those over 70 and smaller but still statistically significant effects for those ages 55 to 70. The mortality of infants under one year old was also shown to increase due to pollution exposure, but effect sizes are much smaller than for the elderly. These results suggest that policies reducing pollution may have broader mortality impacts than typically believed.

Work in Progress

“Do Superior High Schools Boost Students’ Academic Performance? Evidence from China”

“High Temperatures and Crime: Evidence from China”

“The Effects of US-China Tariff War on China’s Innovation”

PRESENTATIONS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| University of Illinois, Economics Department, Applied Micro Seminars | 2022-2024 |
| University of Illinois, Economics Department, Job Market Research Workshop | 2024 |
| University of Illinois, Agricultural & Consumer Economics Department, IPAD Seminar | 2024 |

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (TEACHING ASSISTANT)

| University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | Economics Department |
|---|-------------------------|
| Microeconomic Principles | Spring 2023 - Fall 2024 |
| International Trade | Fall 2022 |
| Economics of the Workplace & Employee Compensation and Incentives | Spring 2022 |
| Economics of Digital Economy | Fall 2021 |
| Monetary Policy & Macroeconometric Policy Analysis | Spring 2021 |
| Monetary Theory & International Finance | Fall 2020 |

AWARDS

| University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | |
|--|------|
| List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students | 2023 |
| Dalian University of Technology | |
| Spiritual Civilization Scholarship | 2016 |
| Second Prize in Dalian 26th Mathematics Competition for College Students | 2016 |
| Second Prize in Dalian 25th Mathematics Competition for College Students | 2015 |
| First Prize Excellent Team of Summer Social Practice at the University Level | 2015 |
| Third Prize Excellent Team of Social Practice at the University Level | 2014 |

SKILLS AND PERSONAL INFORMATION

Programming skills: Stata, Python, L^AT_EX, ArcGIS, Matlab(basic), C language

Languages: Chinese(Native), English(Fluent)

Country of Citizenship: People’s Republic of China

REFERENCES

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Professor Richard Akresh (Chair) | Professor Mark Borgschulte | Professor Russell Weinstein |
| Associate Professor of Economics | Associate Professor of Economics | Associate Professor of Economics |
| Department of Economics, UIUC | Department of Economics, UIUC | Department of Economics, UIUC |
| Email: akresh@illinois.edu | Email: markborg@illinois.edu | Email: weinst@illinois.edu |