Da Gong

School of Business

State University of New York College at Geneseo

Updated August 8, 2024

Contact Information	**Email**:	dgong@geneseo.edu.edu
	Phone:	(951) 333-4255
	Website:	`https://dadasmash.github.io/dagong.github.io`
	Address:	1 College Cir, Geneseo, NY 14454

Research Interests

Development Economics, Public economics, Political Economy, Culture and Institution, Labor Economics, Applied Machine Learning

Appointments

School of Business, SUNY Geneseo — Geneseo, NY
- **Lecturer in Data Analytics** — Aug. 2024 –

Education

Ph.D. Economics — Jun. 2024
UC Riverside — Riverside, CA

M.A. History — Jun. 2018
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) — Beijing, China

B.A. Business Administration — Jun. 2015
Hunan University — Changsha, China

Publications

Economic Impacts of China's Zero-COVID Policies
China Economic Review, 2024, vol. 83
with Zhuocheng Shang, Yaqin Su, Andong Yan and Qi Zhang
[China COVID Risk Level Dataset]

The Impacts of the Zero-Covid Policy on Academic Performance: Evidence for Primary and Secondary Students in China
Journal of Asian Economics, 2024, vol. 93
with Yaqin Su, Anping Xia, and Andong Yan

Cost of Zero-Covid: Effects of Anti-contagious Policy on Labor Market Outcomes in China
Journal of Labor Research, 2024
[Nomination For The Best Paper Award, 1st International Workshop on the Chinese Development Mode, 2022]
with Andong Yan and Jialin Yu

Working paper

Formation and Evolution of Beliefs: Famine Experience and Trust in Neighbors

with Zhian Hu and Chuanchuan Zhang

Abstract: This paper examines how the impact of traumatic experiences on contemporary trust could vary across different initial social capital levels within the context of the Confucian clan and the Great Chinese Famine. Our triple-differences analysis exploits county-level variation in famine intensity, variation in famine exposure based on birth cohorts, and geographic variation in the initial clan culture. We use soil suitability to instrument for famine intensity. We find that traumatic experiences strengthen trust among clan members in areas with high levels of initial social capital. Our findings are robust to model choice, pass placebo tests, and remain stable in a event study model.

Mass Reproducibility and Replicability: A New Hope

with Abel Brodeur, Derek Mikola, Nikolai Cook et al.

Under Review, Journal of Political Economy

Abstract: The present study pushes the boundaries of understanding research reliability by mass reproducing and replicating claims from 110 papers in leading economic and political science outlets. The analysis, involving computational reproducibility checks and robustness assessments, reveals several patterns. First, we uncover a high rate (over 85%) of fully computationally reproducible results. Second, excluding very minor errors like missing packages or paths, we uncover coding errors for about 25% of studies, with some studies containing multiple errors. Third, we test the robustness of the results to 5,494 re-analyses. We find a robustness reproducibility of 71%. Fourth, 52% of re-analysis effect size estimates are smaller than the original published estimates and the average statistical significance of a re-analysis is 77% of the original. Last, we rely on a many-analysts approach to answer eight additional research questions. Most analyst teams find a negative relationship between replicators' experience and reproducibility, while finding no relationship between reproducibility and the provision of intermediate or even raw data combined with the necessary cleaning codes.

Governor Press Release Effects on Public Beliefs and Behaviors During a Pandemic

Abstract: This research focuses on how politician's opinions, provided by local media, shape people's belief and behavior during a pandemic. Specifically, I study how state governors' press release, covered by local media, impact on people's social distancing response, belief in conspiracy theory and trust in vaccines. I use geographic variations, specifically the difference between media market boundaries and state boundaries, as quasi-random exposures to local news and politicians' press releases. My approach involves collecting data on governors' press releases and employing Natural Language Processing models such as Topic LDA and COVID-Bert to categorize news topics and measure politicians' attitudes towards COVID and related policies. Additionally, I leverage multiple waves of survey data from MIT, CMU, and Facebook, providing outcome variables such as individuals' social distancing behavior, mask usage, and vaccine intent.

Crisis Control in Top-down Bureaucracy: Evidence from China's Zero-Covid Policy
with Andong Yan and Ziao Zhao

Abstract: This study investigates the compliance of local Chinese officials with the zero-Covid policy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. By examining biographical data from political elites and using a prefecture-day data set on risk levels – an indicator reflecting the status of zero-Covid policy - we discover a significant impact of prefecture leaders' promotion incentives on their response to COVID-19 outbreaks. Our empirical analysis reveals that leaders with stronger promotion incentives tend to exhibit increased reactions to emerging cases. Evidence shows that such a phenomenon is driven by the different choices of the prefecture leaders facing relatively larger-scale COVID-19 outbreaks. Furthermore, local governors whose jurisdictions are more economically developed tend to enforce more stringent mobility restrictions. However, for prefecture leaders who oversee more developed regions and possess strong promotion incentives, the combined effects of these two factors tend to balance each other out in terms of pandemic response. These results suggest a natural tension between demands for crisis management during the pandemic and routine performance in economic development within the political framework of China.

Other Publications& Technical Reports

Replication Report: A Comment on Gethin, Martínez- Toledano & Piketty (2022)
I4R Discussion Paper 19, 2023
with Olle Hammar

Currency Usage in Huizhou Region Before and After Taiping Rebellion: Evidence from Account Books
Jianghai Academic Journal. 2023,(01), in Chinese
with Weipeng Yuan

Work in progress

How does Air Pollution Affect Sleep? Survey and Social Media Evidence from the United States
with Jingyan Guo and Zhuocheng Shang

Teaching &Advising Experience

Lead Consultant   Jan. 2023 – June. 2024
Graduate Quantitative Methods Center   UC Riverside

- Develop and present graduate level workshops on Staggered Difference-in-Difference, Testing for Parallel Trends, Bootstrapping, CLT, Natural Language Processing, Web-scraping, Stata, Python, R, Github, Latex and more.

- Conduct daily consultations in statistics and programming to graduate students and postdoctoral scholars from a variety of disciplines, including Economics, Public Policy, Political Sciences, Education, Psychology, Electrical Engineering, Biology, Ecology, and Humanities.

Advising   UC Riverside
MacRue, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences   Summer 2023

- Provide instructions on presenting data, posters, and research to under-represented undergraduate students in STEM fields from community and 4-year colleges.

Data Science Pathways Summer Fellowship program   Summer 2023

- Provide data science training to students from community colleges and 4-year universities with diverse backgrounds.

Instructor   UC Riverside

| Econ 143: Environmental Economics | Summer B 2022 |
| Econ 153: Labor Economics | Summer A 2021 |

Teaching Assistant UC Riverside

Econ 101: Statistics for Economics	Fall 2020, Winter 2022, Spring 2022
Econ 107: Introductory Econometrics	Winter 2021, Fall 2021
Econ 104B: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory	Spring 2021
Econ 105B: Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory	Spring 2020
Econ 103: Intermediate Macroeconomics for Business	Fall 2019, Winter 2020
Econ 135: The Stock Market	Fall 2019, Fall 2022

Research Assistant

China Gazetteer Project

Mentor: Richard B. Freeman, Harvard University Feb. 2017 – Dec. 2017

Human Capital Transfers and Rural Enterprise Development

Mentor: Jie Bai, Harvard Kennedy School   Oct. 2017 – Jan. 2018

Talks

2024

Econ of Science & Engineering Seminar, Harvard

2023

CEGA Research Retreat, UC Berkeley (Attendee); UC Riverside Applied Economics Seminar; UCSD/UCLA/CIFAR Conference on Economic Development, Political Economy, and Culture; ACLEC at UCSB; UCSD Young Scholars Conference; MacRue; WEAI 98th; Data Science Pathways; CES North America Conference

2022

6th TextXD at UC Berkeley (cancelled); SEA 92th Annual Meeting; "The Impacts of Social Media on the Health of Individuals, Communities and Society" Workshop at UCR; 1st International Workshop on the Chinese Development Model; WEAI 97th Annual Conference; CES 2022 Annual Conference

2021

Applied Graduate Student Brownbag

2017

China Economy Seminar at Harvard University

Awards & Honors

Dean's Distinguished Fellowship, UC Riverside   2018 - present

Travel Subsidy, Chinese Economists Society North American Conference   2023

Student Travel Grant, Graduate Student Association, UC Riverside 2022, 2023

Travel Grant, Department of Economics, UC Riverside   2022, 2023

Referee Service

Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization,
SSM - Population Health

Skills & Personal

Programming Skills and Software
STATA, Python, R, ArcGIS, LaTeX

Languages
English (fluent), Mandarin Chinese (native)

Citizenship
China, F-1 Visa

References

Joseph R. Cummins (Chair)
Associate Professor of Economics
UC Riverside
(951) 827-1582
joseph.cummins@ucr.edu

Yang Xie
Associate Professor of Economics
UC Riverside
(951) 827-1478
yang.xie@ucr.edu

Ugo Antonio Troiano
Associate Professor of Economics
UC Riverside
(951) 827-1475
ugoantonio.troiano@ucr.edu

Kevin M. Esterling
Professor of Political Science
and Public Policy
UC Riverside
(951) 827-5591
kevin.esterling@ucr.edu