



Xinyan Lin

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Professional Experience

Stanford University Doerr School of Sustainability, Affiliate Researcher 2025-

- **Evaluation of Equity Framings:** Developing a peer-reviewed article that evaluates framings of social equity and justice in major global marine conservation initiatives.

Duke University Marine Laboratory, PhD Researcher 2018 - 2024

- **Field Building Research for Ocean Justice:** Completed dissertation research that analyzed human and non-human actors mobilizing ocean justice and equity in the field of marine fisheries and biodiversity governance.
- **Funding Landscape Analysis:** Conducted funding landscape research on global funding flow for the fisheries sector, for a Duke-EDF collaboration research that calls for recognizing fish as food, not merely as a commodity, in intl. development
- **Data Analysis and Management:** Provided data management and analysis to the FAO Illuminating Hidden Harvests initiative to generate new evidence about the benefits, interactions, and impacts of small-scale fisheries to inform policy and practice
- **Teaching and Mentorship:** Co-taught undergraduate-level Marine Policy Course to enable students to have a general background in marine policy, and develop critical thinking skills in creating alternative economy communities

China Marine Funders Alliance, Founding Director 2017-2020

- **Network Building:** Established and managed the China Marine Funders Alliance for SEE Foundation and David and Lucile Packard Foundation to lead the network of funders investing in China's coastal and ocean conservation with more than 30 Chinese and international grantmaking foundations, their annual investments tripled from 2017 to 2020.
- **Strategy and MEL Design:** Designed program strategy, monitoring and evaluation system for WWF China Ocean Program for capacity building in fisheries management and marine plastic pollution, and secured funding from international donors including WWF offices in Australia, Japan, the UK, and the US from 2017 to 2018
- **Field Building Event Convening:** Co-organized the 2017 China Ocean NGO forum to enhance field building of China's coastal and marine conservation issues. More than 300 stakeholders attended the forum, three times more than the previous convening of the 2015 China Ocean NGO Forum.

Oak Foundation Marine Programme, Associate 2016-2017

- **Grant Management:** Managed the routine responsibilities of three grant portfolios (marine plastic pollution, IUU fishing, small-scale fisheries) totalling over 20 million USD under the supervision of three Programme Officers
- **Capacity Building:** Conducted strategic research for capacity building in marine plastic pollution for grantees in Asia.
- **Field Building Event Convening:** Organized the initial workshop for strategy development of IUU fishing portfolio with a dozen international NGOs in Taipei
- **MEL Development:** Supported the Marine team, and the Environment Programme Director in organizing the development of monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) learning system of the marine sub-programme

Oak Foundation Climate Change Programme, Grants Management Trainee 2014-2015

- **Due Diligence:** Processed information from potential grantees and prepared application summaries
- **Grant Administration:** Drafted grant recommendations and supported the due diligence process
- **Project Monitoring:** Assisted with the monitoring of grants and wrote progress reports
- **Strategic Research:** Conducted strategic research for capacity building in climate change for grantees in China and India

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Consultant 2012-2013

- **Field Research:** Conducted field study in Beijing and Tokyo, interviewed numerous area experts

- **Policy Analysis:** Published a 90-page-long research report on China's air pollution policies and presented research in the S-7-3 International Expert Workshop on Transboundary Air Pollution in East Asia

United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), Research Intern 2012

- **Project Coordination:** Liaised with research partners for the publication of a UNU-Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) project: "Impact of Free and Open Source Software for Sustainable Development in Sub-Saharan Africa"
- **Data Analysis and Management:** Updated and analyzed survey data and compiled summary reports

Education

Ph.D. in Marine Science and Conservation, Duke University 2018-2024

- Thesis: Mobilizing Ocean Equity: Global and Chinese Assemblages, Onto-Epistemological Possibilities, and Gongyi Agency

Master in International Affairs, Graduate Institute Geneva 2013-2015

- Thesis: Deconstructing Resource Curse in Western China, the Case of Coal Industry in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region

Bachelor of Business Administration, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan 2008-2012

- Thesis: Forest Certification for China's Bamboo Industry: Pathway, Problem, and Prospect (Best Thesis Award)

Publications:

- **Lin, X.**, Campbell, LM, Basurto, XG, Cohen P., under review, How Committed are We to Ocean Equity? Equity Mobilization at UN Ocean Conference 2022. Journal of Earth System Governance
- **Lin, X.**, Basurto, XG, Campbell, LM. under review, The Role of Philanthropic Foundations in China's Marine Conservation Governance. Journal of Conservation Science and Practice
- **Lin, X.**, Basurto, XG, Cao L, Zou S, (2021) Past, Present, and Prospect of Small-Scale Fishery Commons in China. conference paper to the International Association of Study of Commons (IASC) Fisheries and Aquaculture Virtual Conference.
- Bennett, A., Basurto, X., Virdin, J., **Lin, X.**, Betances, S., Smith, M., Allison, E., et al. (2021) Recognize Fish as Food in Policy Discourse and Development Funding. Ambio. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-020-01451-4>
- **Lin, X.** (2019) China Marine Grantmaking Bluebook: An Overview of Support from Philanthropy to Marine Conservation in China – report presented at the 3rd China Ocean NGO Forum.
- **Lin, X.**, and Elder, M. (2014). Major Developments in China's National Air Pollution Policy during the Early 12th Five-Year Plan Period. IGES Policy/Research Report. Hayama, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep00721.1>

Language Proficiency

Chinese: Native • English: C2 • Japanese: C1 • French: B2

Key Skills

- Grant Portfolio Management
- Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
- Field Development
- Strategic Network Development
- Cross-Cultural Facilitation
- Stakeholder Convening
- Policy Analysis & Research
- Data Analysis & Management
- Multilingual Communication