Jessie Lu

PhD Student in Sustainable Development, Columbia University

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EDUCATION

Columbia University New York, NY
PhD, Sustainable Development 2021 — Present
MA, Sustainable Development 2024
Fields: Environment, Development, Urban

London School of Economics London, UK
Visiting Research Student, Department of Geography & Environment 2024
Hosting Faculty: Giles Atkinson, Frank Venmans

University of Pennsylania Philadelphia, PA
B.A., Summa Cum Laude, Anthropology (with Honors), Minor in Chemistry 2017

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Biodiversity Loss and Beef Production in Southern Africa

Damages from the Emerald Ash Borer: Invasive Species, Urban Forest Loss, and Inequality *(MA Thesis)*

Health Impacts of Urban Public Park Provision in California *(with Abigail Dow and Graeme Peterson)*

TEACHING

Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs
Teaching Assistant, Human Ecology, Professor Jeffrey Shrader Spring 2024

- Co-instructed a required Sustainable Development PhD course focused on combining dynamic macroeconomic models with resource economics to understand topics related to economic development and sustainability. *Example topics covered: neoclassical growth models, endogenous growth theory, poverty traps, non-renewable resource models, renewable resource models*

- Led weekly flipped classroom-style recitation section aimed at situating models and theoretical concepts within real world research questions. *Example recitation sections topics included: history of economic development, technological change, institutions, Hotelling's rule, discounting, Social Cost of Carbon, biodiversity, renewable energy*

Columbia University, Department of Economics
Teaching Assistant, Gender and Applied Economics, Professor Lena Edlund Fall 2023

- Assisted in teaching an undergraduate economics elective examining applied economics in the context of gender, labor, and political economics

- Led recitation sections reviewing research papers and their empirical methodology and findings

SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

Harvard Kennedy School Cambridge, MA
Research Assistant Assistant, Center for International Development Aug. 2019 — June 2021

- Working with Professor Ricardo Hausmann, conducted economic analysis to inform policymakers in decisions related to economic growth, with a focus on understanding key barriers to growth, labor markets, and export diversification

- Communicated findings with policymakers in Albania, Peru, Namibia, Colombia, and South Africa through the production of technical reports and policy memos as well as through presentations and meetings with counterparts

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Cambridge, MA
Independent Consultant, Strategy and Knowledge Feb. 2019 — Aug. 2019

- Created a policy paper as an input to inform the agency's assessment of the efficacy of a proposed change in funding strategy by summarizing evidence from the literature on agricultural aid and providing empirical analyses of the agricultural impact of development financing institution investments

Center for Global Development   Washington, DC
Research Assistant, Global Health   Nov. 2017 — Feb. 2019

- Conducted research to assess and improve global health policy efforts specifically related to procurement, family planning, universal health coverage, and improved data collection

- Engaged with policymakers through writing policy briefs and working papers, organizing meetings, and presenting to stakeholders

HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

CEEP Student Research Grant, Columbia University	2025
Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation	2021 — 2026
Phi Beta Kappa, University of Pennsylvania	2017
Graduation with Departmental Honors, Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania	2017
Dean's List, University of Pennsylvania	All semesters available

PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

Environmental Economics PhD Workshop, London School of Economics	2024
Summer School in Environmental and Energy Economics, UC Berkeley	2024

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Coding:	R, Python, Stata, Google Earth Engine
Languages:	English, Mandarin

REFERENCES

Available upon request