

Keliang Xiao

Department of Agricultural & Consumer Economics, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

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Education

Ph.D. in Agricultural & Consumer Economics

Expected May 2026

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Advisor: Prof. William Ridley

Research area: International Trade and Environmental Economics

M.A. in Applied Economics

2018 - 2020

Sun Yat-Sen University

Guangdong, China

B.A. in Economics

2014 - 2018

Zhongnan University of Economics and Law

Hubei, China

Research Interest

International Trade, Environmental Economics, Climate Change, Land Use

Working Papers

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1. **Keliang Xiao**, William Ridley, Doyoung Park. “Trade Policy and the Emissions Content of Agricultural Trade” July 2025 Draft.
 2. **Keliang Xiao**. “Palm Oil Trade, Tariff Exposure, and Deforestation in Indonesia” May 2025 Draft.
 3. **Keliang Xiao**, William Ridley. “The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and its Implications for Global Trade” Submitted to journal.

Work in Progress

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1. **Keliang Xiao**. “Flood Risk Shocks, Flood Insurance, and Migration”
 2. **Keliang Xiao**. “Carbon Trading Pilots in China: A Machine Learning Approach to Estimating Emission Effects”

Presentations

Oral Presentations

1. **Keliang Xiao**. “Palm Oil Trade, Tariff Exposure, and Deforestation in Indonesia” AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, 2025.
2. **Keliang Xiao**, William Ridley, Doyoung Park. “Trade Policy and the Emissions Content of Agricultural Trade” AERE Summer Conference, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM, 2025.
3. **Keliang Xiao**, William Ridley. “The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and its Implications for Global Trade” AAEA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, 2024.

Poster Presentations

1. **Keliang Xiao**, William Ridley, Doyoung Park. “Trade Policy and the Emissions Content of Agricultural Trade” AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, 2025.
2. **Keliang Xiao**, William Ridley. “The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and its Implications for Global Trade” AAEA Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., 2023.

Teaching Experience

Instructor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Master's Math Camp

Summer 2025

Responsibilities: Designed and taught an intensive mathematics camp, developed lectures and assignments on calculus, linear algebra, and probability to prepare incoming graduate students for advanced coursework.

Teaching Assistant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

ACE 455: International Trade in Food and Agriculture

Fall 2023, 2024, 2025

Responsibilities: Assessed assignments and exams and facilitated biweekly office hours to support students' learning, address course-related questions, and provide feedback on research paper progress.

Master's Math Camp

Summer 2023, 2024

Responsibilities: Graded homework and provided targeted support during office hours to help students with diverse mathematical backgrounds prepare more effectively for master's-level study.

ACE 474: Economics of Consumption

Spring 2024

Responsibilities: Facilitated in-class discussions and evaluated student performance through quizzes, assignments, and project presentations.

Awards and Honors

AAEA Travel Grants

AAEA, 2025

Spring Conference Travel Awards

University of Illinois, 2025

Summer Conference Travel Awards

University of Illinois, 2023, 2024

First-Class National Graduate Scholarship

Ministry of Education, China, 2019

Excellent Graduation Thesis Award

Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, 2018

Outstanding Student Scholarship (Grade 1)

Ministry of Education, China, 2015, 2016, 2017

Service and Leadership

Membership Director, Graduate Student Organization (GSO)

Department of Agricultural & Consumer Economics, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2023-2024

Additional Information

Software proficiency: Stata, R, Python, ArcGIS, LaTeX, Microsoft Office

Languages: English, Chinese (native)

Professional References

William Clifton Ridley, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

University of Illinois

Dept. of Agricultural & Consumer Economics

Email: wridley@illinois.edu 

Yilan Xu, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

University of Illinois

Dept. of Agricultural & Consumer Economics

Email: yilanxu@illinois.edu 

Andrew B Hultgren, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

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Doyoung Park, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Texas A&M University

Department of Agricultural Economics

Email: doyoung.park@ag.tamu.edu 