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PLACEMENT DIRECTORS

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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, expected May 2025
M.A.	Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, 2021
B.A.	Economics (with distinction), Wuhan University, China, 2019
B.S.	Mathematics (with distinction), Wuhan University, China, 2019

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: Political Economy, Chinese Economy
Secondary: Public Economics, Personnel Economics of the State

DISSERTATION

Essays on the Political Economy of China

Committee: Prof. Ethan Kaplan (Co-Chair), Prof. Allan Drazen (Co-Chair), Prof. Peter Murrell

JOB MARKET PAPER

“From Settlement to Stability: The Political Impact of Relaxing Migration Barriers in China,” with Yu Qiu

Abstract: Along with migration barriers, geography can act as an institution shaping the distribution of opportunities and thus holds relevance to social stability. We study this issue by estimating the causal effect on labor unrest of China's relaxation of internal migration barriers since 2014, which made it easier for migrants to permanently settle in medium and small cities. Leveraging the reform's population cutoff rule as identifying variation, we present evidence that the reform significantly reduced the labor unrest rate. We propose that one mechanism behind our finding is that the reform extended migrants' horizons of settlement, increasing their dependence on the state and thereby inducing obedient behavior. We show that the reform significantly reduced migrants' rate of outmigration from their initial destinations, with the effect being more pronounced among more forward-looking individuals. Using a novel causal mediation analysis, we show that this mechanism can account for up to 27.4 percent of the reform's total effect on labor unrest. Furthermore, we find no evidence that the reform led to compositional changes among migrants, immediate deliveries of benefits to migrants, and tightening of governments' social control. Our results highlight the role of social policy in influencing stability through a psychological channel.

OTHER RESEARCH PAPERS

“China’s Anticorruption Campaign and Civil Servant Fever,” with Xun Li, *Journal of Law and Economics*, Vol. 67, No. 2, May 2024. ([Link](#))

“The Effect of Education on Voter Turnout in China’s Rural Elections,” *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, Vol. 221, May 2024. ([Link](#))

– Melville Ulmer Prize (Best 2nd-Year Paper Prize), University of Maryland, 2022

“Housing Market Regulations and Strategic Divorce Propensity in China,” with James Alm and Xun Li, *Journal of Population Economics*, Vol. 35, July 2022. ([Link](#))

“Role of Professional Bureaucracy in the Policy Response to COVID-19: Does a Public Health or Medical Background Help?” with Xun Li, Qianqian Wan, and Xi Chen, *China Economic Review*, Vol. 71, February 2022. ([Link](#))

“Anti-Corruption and Political Trust: Evidence from China,” with Ming Fang and Congling Xia, revise and resubmit at *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*. ([Link](#))

“Property Rights, State Capacity, and Social Capacity: The Lasting Impacts of the Taiping Rebellion,” with Li Yang and Colin Xu, reject and resubmit at *Journal of Economic Growth*. ([Link](#))

“Adverse Experience and Occupational Outcomes: Evidence from Children of the Cultural Revolution,” Working Paper. ([Link](#))

– 2nd Place for Best 3rd-Year Paper Prize, University of Maryland, 2022

“Foreign Economic Relations and Domestic Politics: The Case of Taiwan,” Working Paper. ([Link](#))

– 2nd Place for Economics Poster Competition, University of Maryland, 2023

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Intermediate Microeconomics (undergraduate), Summer 2023

Teaching Assistant, Econometrics (PhD core), Spring 2022-Spring 2024

Teaching Assistant, Probability & Statistics (PhD preparatory), Summer 2022-Summer 2024

RESEARCH AND RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Dr. Colin Xu, World Bank, Summer 2022

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Chiang Ching-kuo Doctoral Fellowship, Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, 2024 (declined)

Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship, University of Maryland, 2024

Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant, University of Maryland, 2024

Scholarship for Outstanding Students, Wuhan University, 2015-2019

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

2024 (* = scheduled): Society of Labor Economists, Chinese Economists Society, Urban Economic Association*, Southern Economic Association*

2022: University of Queensland

2021: Global Labor Organization & Renmin University Joint Conference

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee for *Agribusiness: An International Journal*, *British Medical Journal: Leader*, *China: An International Journal*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of Population Economics*

LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese (native), English (fluent)

COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS

Stata, Matlab

REFERENCES

Prof. Ethan Kaplan	University of Maryland	edkaplan@umd.edu	(301) 405-3501
Prof. Allan Drazen	University of Maryland	drazen@umd.edu	(301) 405-3477
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