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PLACEMENT DIRECTOR

Prof. Luminita Stevens
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EMPLOYMENT

2025–2026 Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, Bowdoin College
Summer 2022 Short-Term Consultant, Development Research Group, World Bank

EDUCATION

2025 Ph.D. Economics, University of Maryland
2021 M.A. Economics, University of Maryland
2019 B.A. Economics and B.S. Mathematics, Wuhan University

RESEARCH FIELDS

Political Economy, Development Economics, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconometrics

DISSERTATION AND REFERENCES

Essays on the Political Economy of China

References:

Prof. Allan Drazen (co-chair)
Department of Economics
University of Maryland
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Prof. Ethan Kaplan (co-chair)
Department of Economics
University of Maryland
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Prof. Peter Murrell
Department of Economics
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Prof. Margaret Pearson
Department of Government and Politics
University of Maryland
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JOB MARKET PAPER

“[Migrant Integration and Social Stability: Evidence from China](#)” with Yu Qiu.

Abstract: Contemporary public discourse often raises concerns that migration may undermine social stability, giving rise to support for exclusionary integration policies. We study this issue by estimating the causal effect on labor unrest of China’s recent reform to its internal migration institutions. Exploiting variation due to the reform’s discontinuity rule based on population, we find that the reform significantly reduced labor unrest (e.g., strikes). We demonstrate that one key mechanism is migrants’ enhanced settlement intentions, which makes them less likely to engage in unrest in order to secure the opportunity of settlement offered by the reform. We find that the reform increased the likelihood of migrants staying in migration destinations, and through a novel causal mediation analysis, we show that heightened settlement intentions can explain 63 percent of the decrease in labor unrest due to the reform. In addition, the reform’s effect on labor unrest is more pronounced in places where migrants have a smaller cultural distance from the natives and thus should be more inclined to stay due to the reform. We find no evidence that the reform led to compositional changes among migrants, significant improvements in migrants’ wellbeing, or governments’ tighter social control.

PUBLICATIONS

1. “[Anti-Corruption and Political Trust: Evidence from China](#),” with Ming Fang and Congling Xia, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, Vol. 234, June 2025.

2. “China’s Anticorruption Campaign and Civil Servant Fever,” with Xun Li, *Journal of Law and Economics*, Vol. 67, No. 2, May 2024.
3. “The Effect of Education on Voter Turnout in China’s Rural Elections,” *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, Vol. 221, May 2024.
4. “Housing Market Regulations and Strategic Divorce Propensity in China,” with James Alm and Xun Li, *Journal of Population Economics*, Vol. 35, July 2022.
5. “Role of Professionalism 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.

WORKING PAPERS

6. “Property Rights, Fiscal Capacity, and Social Capacity: The Lasting Impact of the Taiping Rebellion,” with Lixin Colin Xu and Li Yang, revise & resubmit at *Journal of Economic Growth*.
7. “Adverse Experience and Occupational Outcomes: Evidence from Children of the Cultural Revolution”
8. “Foreign Economic Relations and Domestic Politics: The Case of Taiwan”

TEACHING

Bowdoin College

Political Economy of Development: Fall 2025

Econometrics: Fall 2025

Intermediate Microeconomics: Spring 2026

University of Maryland

Intermediate Microeconomics: Summer 2023

Microeconomics Principles (TA): Spring 2025

Ph.D. Econometrics Sequence (TA): 2022–2024

Ph.D. Probability and Statistics (TA): Summer 2022–2024

PRESENTATIONS

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|------|---|
| 2025 | West Virginia University, University of Adelaide, University of Bath |
| 2024 | Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting, Chinese Economists Society North America Meeting, Urban Economics Association North America Meeting, DC Political Economy Center Workshop, Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, University of Queensland |
| 2022 | University of Queensland |
| 2021 | Global Labor Organization & Renmin University Joint Conference |

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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| Referee | <i>Agribusiness: An International Journal</i> • <i>British Medical Journal: Leader</i> • <i>China: An International Journal</i> • <i>Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization</i> • <i>Journal of Economic Growth</i> • <i>Journal of Human Resources</i> • <i>Journal of Population Economics</i> • <i>Oxford Development Studies</i> |
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GRANTS AND AWARDS

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| 2024 | Chiang Ching-kuo Doctoral Fellowship, Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation (declined) |
| 2024 | Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship, University of Maryland |
| 2024 | Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant, University of Maryland |
| 2023 | Award for Economics Poster Competition, University of Maryland |
| 2022 | Best Third-Year Paper Prize, University of Maryland |
| 2022 | Melville Ulmer Prize (Best Second-Year Paper Prize), University of Maryland |
| 2019 | Distinguished Graduate, Wuhan University |
| 2015–2019 | Academic Excellence Scholarship, Wuhan University |

SKILLS

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| Software | Stata, Matlab, R |
| Language | English, Mandarin Chinese |