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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

Comparative Politics, Chinese Politics and Policy, Political Economy of Development, Methodology

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)
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Prof. Peter Murrell
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Prof. Margaret Pearson
Department of Government and Politics
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JOB MARKET PAPER

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

Abstract: There are growing concerns that a relaxed migration policy may undermine social stability. We study this issue by estimating the causal effect on labor unrest of China’s recent reform to its internal migration institutions, which facilitated permanent settlement for migrants in small- and medium-sized cities. Exploiting variation due to the reform’s population cutoff rule, we find that the reform significantly reduced labor unrest. We suggest that one important mechanism behind our finding is the enhancement of migrants’ settlement intentions, which makes migrants less engaged in unrest to secure the opportunity of settlement offered by the reform. We provide evidence that the reform increased migrants’ likelihood of staying in their destinations. Through a novel causal mediation analysis, we find that heightened settlement intentions can explain 61 percent of decreased labor unrest due to the reform in the immediate term and 27 percent in the long term. We find no evidence that the reform led to compositional changes among migrants, delivery of benefits to migrants, or tighter government social control. Our results highlight how migration policy can influence stability by shaping migrants’ attachment to their destinations.

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

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

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

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

Software	Stata, Matlab, R
Language	English, Mandarin Chinese