

Xiurui 'Iris' Cui

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Research Area: Policy Impact and Evaluation, Labor Economics, Technology Adoption and Impact Assessment

Education

August 2021 – present

📖 **Ph.D. candidate, University of Florida** in Food and Resource Economics.
GPA: 4.0

Dissertation title: *The Influence of Immigration Policies and International Relations on Labor Market Outcomes.*

Job Market Paper: *Political Posturing vs. Reality on the Ground: E-Verify and the Employment of Undocumented Immigrants*

Description: The adoption of E-Verify mandates by various U.S. states aims to reduce unauthorized employment, yet our analysis reveals significant variations in their outcomes. We discuss the factors driving these variations, focusing on the key differences in political intentions and policy design. This study advances the political economy literature by addressing the issue of undocumented immigrants, one of the major challenges at the heart of American politics, and demonstrating how it has been approached in the political battlegrounds and how policy outcomes are altered by political agendas and economic realities.

August 2014 – June 2016

📖 **M.S., University of Kentucky** in Agricultural Economics.

GPA: 4.0

Thesis title: *Determining the Value of Birthrank and Parent Age in Thoroughbred Racehorses.*

August 2008 – June 2013

📖 **B.S., Jilin University** in Veterinary Medicine.

Professional Experiences

August 2021 – present

📖 **Graduate Research Assistant**, Food and Resource Economics Department, University of Florida.

- Conducted research on policy impact analysis, focusing on the effects of immigration policies on labor market outcomes and minority mental health.

- Investigate gender-discriminatory hiring practices in temporary visa programs and analyze their spillover effects on domestic labor markets.

- Investigated natural resource management in perennial crop systems and analyzed technological adoption, including cost-benefit evaluations of technology implementation.

November 2017 – July 2021




📖 **Extension Area Specialist**, Institute of Agriculture, University of Tennessee.

- Developed and led a pilot tobacco farmworker safety training program, serving as the Principal Investigator (PI) on a supporting USDA-NIFA grant.

- Collaborated with county and state governments to conduct feasibility studies on alternative crop operations, including industrial hemp.




- Taught numerous in-person workshops and webinars on business planning and farm management concepts.

Professional Experiences (continued)

- June 2016 — June 2017  **Agricultural Economist**, Seed CX Ltd., Chicago, IL.
– Area of specialization: Commodity markets, market analysis, price volatility analysis.
– Conducted market analysis on commodity markets, focusing on price trends, volatility patterns, and the creation and performance of commodity indices.
– Authored and published online reports on industrial hemp, including insights on commodity hedging and market dynamics.
- August 2015 – May 2016  **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Kentucky.
AEC303- Microeconomics Concepts (Guest Lecture), Spring 2016 Undergraduate prerequisite course. Guest lecture for one class on “Costs of Production”
- August 2013 – May 2014  **Equine Management Leadership Program Trainee**, Darley Thoroughbred Racing, Lexington, KY.

Publications

Publications in Peer-Reviewed Journals

- 1 A. Hammami, Z. Guan, T. Xia, and X. Cui, “Rising minimum wages: Challenges to the u.s. produce industry,” in *Agribusiness*, forthcoming, 2025.
- 2 X. Cui, Z. Guan, and D. Farnsworth, “Advancing specialty crop management: A review of recent developments in robotics, remote sensing, and machine learning systems,” in *International Food and Agribusiness Management Review*, 2024.  DOI: 10.22434/ifamr1104.
- 3 A. Hammami, Z. Guan, and X. Cui, “Foreign competition reshaping the landscape of the us blueberry market,” in *Choices*, vol. 39, 2024.
- 4 X. Cui, Z. Guan, K. Morgan, K. Huang, and A. Hammami, “Multitiered fresh produce supply chain: The case of tomatoes,” in *Horticulturae*, vol. 8, 2022, p. 1204.  DOI: 10.3390/horticulturae8121204.
- 5 M. Huo, X. Cui, J. Xue, *et al.*, “Anti-inflammatory effects of linalool in raw 264.7 macrophages and lipopolysaccharide-induced lung injury model,” in *Journal of Surgical Research*, vol. 180, 2013, e47–e54.  DOI: 10.1016/j.jss.2012.10.050.

Papers Under Review

- 1 X. Cui, K. Grogan, R. Koenke, and Z. Guan, “How resistant cultivars reshape disease management: An application to citrus greening disease,” *Submitted to Agricultural Systems*, 2024.
- 2 X. Cui, C. Zhou, Z. Guan, and W. S. Lee, “Economic analysis of precision technologies in twospotted spider mites detection in strawberry,” *HortScience*, 2024, In preparation for submission.

Working Papers

- 1 X. Cui and Z. Guan, "Political posturing vs. reality on the ground: E-verify and the employment of undocumented immigrants," Intended for submission to the Journal of Political Economy, 2024.
- 2 X. Cui, Z. Guan, and L. Yi, "Caught in the crossfire: US-China tensions and the mental health of Chinese ethnicity in the U.S.," Work in progress, 2024.
- 3 X. Cui, K. Huang, Z. Guan, and C. Mullally, "Male dominance in the hiring of foreign guest workers: Controversy and spillover effects,"
Description: This research examines the H-2A guest worker program's hiring practices, which overwhelmingly favor male workers. Similar gender imbalances are evident in the H-2B visa program. Our analysis reveals that the increasing use of the H-2A program negatively impacts female employment in the crop production sector, with no significant effect on male employment. By uncovering these gender disparities, the study contributes to discussions on creating more equitable labor policies and highlights the broader spillover effects on domestic labor markets, 2024.



Extension Publications

- 1 X. Cui and S. Smith, *Hemp industry survey*, University of Tennessee Extension, Available online: <http://www.utia.tennessee.edu>, 2020.
- 2 X. Cui and S. Smith, *Industrial hemp extract (CBD) production budget (1 acre)*, University of Tennessee Extension, Available online: <https://arec.tennessee.edu/extension/budgets/>, 2020.
- 3 X. Cui and A. Griffith, *2018 bred heifer development budget*, University of Tennessee Extension, Available online: <https://arec.tennessee.edu/extension/budgets/>, 2018.

Conference Presentations



February 1-4, 2025	■ "Do E-Verify Mandates Work? " SAEA Annual Meeting Job Market Paper Presentation, Irving, TX.
July 28-30, 2024	■ "How Resistant Cultivars Reshape Disease Management: A Theoretical Model with An Application to Citrus Greening Disease" and "Male Dominance in the Hiring of Foreign Guest Workers: Controversy and Spillover Effects," AAEA Annual Meeting Poster Presentation, New Orleans, LA.
February 3-6, 2024	■ "E-Verify and the Employment of Undocumented Immigrants," SAEA Annual Meeting Presentation, Atlanta, GA.
July 23-25, 2023	■ "Fresh Tomatoes: Green or Red?" AAEA Extension Section Graduate Student Competition, Washington, D.C.
July 31-August 2, 2022	■ "Competition and Price Transmission along Supply Chains of Perishable Agricultural Commodities: The Case of Florida Strawberries," AAEA Annual Meeting Poster Presentation, Anaheim, CA.
September 24-25, 2018	■ "Industrial Hemp Budgeting," Southern Outlook Conference Presentation, Atlanta, GA.

Grants



- 2020  *First Aid/CPR Training: Improving Farm Safety for H2A Workers on Tobacco Farms*, USDA-NIFA Grant #31014-03, Southern Extension Risk Management Education - Exploratory Projects, \$3,941. PI.
- 2019  *Managing Risk by Improving Farm Business Management Skills*, USDA-NIFA Grant #2018-70027-28585, Southern Extension Risk Management Education - Education Projects, \$38,709. Co-PI.

Leadership

Student Organizations








- July 2023 - July 2024  **President**, Applied Economics Graduate Student Organization, University of Florida.
- July 2022 - July 2023  **Vice President of Social Affairs**, Applied Economics Graduate Student Organization, University of Florida.

Departmental Services



- February 2024 – present  **Student Representative**, IDEAS committee, University of Florida.
- October 2020 – July 2021  **Western Region Secretary/Treasurer**, Tennessee Association of Agricultural Agents and Specialists.

Honors and Awards

Scholarships

- 2025  *Southern Agricultural Economics Association Job Market Paper Competition-2nd Place.*
- 2024  *Ofelia Anzola Memorial Scholarship – Leadership*, University of Florida.
  *AAEA Specialty Crop Economics Section Best Student Academic Poster.*
- 2023  *Werner and Margaret C. Husmann Scholarship*, University of Florida.
  *AAEA Extension Section Graduate Student Competition Finalist.*
  *Department of Food and Resource Economics Best Presentation Award.*
- 2016  *Spring International Student Scholarship*, University of Kentucky.

Honors – Extension

- 2021  *National Association of County Agricultural Agents Search for Excellence in Farm and Ranch Business Management Award.*
- 2020  *Tennessee Association of Agricultural Agents and Specialists Early Career Award*, University of Tennessee.