

Xiaochen Sun

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Academic Appointment

Assistant Professor of Economics, New Mexico State University, 2024-present

Education

Ph.D. in Public Policy and Management, Carnegie Mellon University, 2024

Dissertation Committee: Karen Clay (co-chair), Edson Severnini (co-chair), Akshaya Jha

M.S. in Environmental Economics and Policy, Duke University, 2015

B.A. in Environmental Economics, Renmin University of China, 2013

Research Interests

Energy and Environmental Economics, Public Economics, Empirical Industrial Organization

Research

Peer-Reviewed Publications

"Does LEED Certification Save Energy? Evidence from Retrofitted Federal Buildings", joint with Karen Clay and Edson Severnini, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* 121: 102866, 2023. (NBER Working Paper No. 28612 and IZA Discussion Paper No. 14211)

* Also featured in NBER Research Spotlight, 7/15/2021

Working Papers

"The Hidden Cost of the Cloud: Data Centers and Electricity Market Inefficiency", joint with Jamal Mamkhezri and Yuting Yang

"Impacts of Uncertainty in Transmission Interconnection on Energy Transition"

* Winner of the 2024 USAEE Young Professional Best Paper Award Competition

Work in Progress

"When Storms Strike: Air Pollution and Health Effects of Electricity Sector Disruptions", joint with Michael Cobar and Felipe Gómez Trejos

"Can Placed-Based Incentives Accelerate the Energy Transition? Evidence from the IRA's Energy Community Tax Credits", joint with Gaurav Doshi and Jancy Ling Liu

"Impact of a Cap-and-Trade Program on Local Air Pollution: Evidence from the Acid Rain Program", joint with Karen Clay and Edson Severnini

Conference and Seminar Presentations

[†] Presented by coauthors

2026: AERE@ASSA[†] (Philadelphia, PA, scheduled)

2025: USAEE Annual Conference (Fort Worth, TX, scheduled), Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop (UIUC), Southeastern Workshop on Energy & Environmental Economics & Policy[†] (Georgia Tech), University of New Mexico (Albuquerque, NM), CU Environmental & Resource Economics Workshop[†] (Vail, CO), Camp Resources XXXI (Asheville, NC), AERE Annual Summer (Albuquerque, NM), ASSA Annual Meeting (San Francisco, CA)

2024: USAEE Annual Conference (Baton Rouge, LA), AERE Annual Summer Conference (DC), New Mexico State University, Pomona College, Miami University – Oxford

2023: Carnegie Mellon University (Heinz Informal Lunch Series), Carnegie Mellon Electricity Industry Center, Property and Environment Research Center (PERC), Empirical Methods in Energy Economics Annual Workshop (Yale)

2022: Northeast Workshop on Energy Policy & Environmental Economics (Carnegie Mellon University), AERE Annual Summer Conference (Miami, FL)

2021: AERE Annual Summer Conference (virtual), APPAM Student Research Seminar (virtual), Midwest Energy Fest (virtual), 1st Workshop in Applied Microeconomics of Association for Mentoring & Inclusion in Economics (AMIE) (virtual)

Discussions

2026: IAEE@ASSA (Philadelphia, PA, scheduled)

Grants, Fellowships and Awards

The Financial Research Institute (FRI) Utility Policy Fellow (offer deferred), 2025

Winner of 41st USAEE Young Professional Research Competition, 2024

PERC Graduate Fellowship, 2023

Carnegie Mellon University Graduate Student Assembly / Provost Conference Funds, 2022

AMIE Mentee, 2021

Attendee, Berkeley/Sloan Summer School in Environmental and Energy Economics, 2019

Teaching Experience

New Mexico State University

ECON 312 Intermediate Microeconomics Theory: Fall 2024 - 2025, Spring 2025

ECON 2110G Principles of Macroeconomics: Fall 2024 - 2025

ECON337V Natural Resource Economics: Spring 2025

Service and Activities

Professional Service

Referee: Nature Communications, The Electricity Journal

Conference Paper Review: USAEE Young Professional Best Paper Award (2025), AERE Summer Conference (2023, 2024)

University Service

EASIB, New Mexico State University

College of Business Faculty Council Member, 2025 - present

Undergraduate (UG) Economics (ECON) Faculty Advisor, 2024 - present

UG ECON Program Assessment, 2025

Other

Previous Employment

Research Analyst, Duke University Energy Initiative, 2015 - 2018

Research Intern, Smart Electric Power Alliance, 2015

Energy Research Fellow, Greenpeace, 2014

Other Information

Software: Stata, Python, R, Matlab

Affiliations: American Economic Association (AEA), Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE), United States Association for Energy Economics (USAEE)

Languages: English (fluent), Mandarin (native), Japanese (beginner)