

# Xiting Zhuang

Doctoral Candidate

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University of Connecticut

Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

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## Education

- University of Connecticut Storrs, Connecticut  
Doctor of Philosophy, Agricultural and Resource Economics Spring, 2024 (*Expected*)  
Committee: Sandro Steinbach, Emma Bojinova, and Charles Towe  
Thesis Title: “*Agri-Food Trade in Times of Global Supply Chain Disruptions*”
- Georgia Institute of Technology, College of Computing Atlanta, GA  
Master of Science, Computer Science 2024 (Expected)  
Specialization: Machine Learning
- Fuzhou University, School of Economics & Management Fuzhou, China  
Master of Science, Quantitative Economics 2017
- Xiamen University, Tan Kah Kee College Xiamen, China  
Bachelor of Art, Accounting 2014

## Fields of Interest

Causal Inference, International Trade and Policy, Supply Chains

## Research and Extension Experience

*University of Connecticut*

*Department of Computer Science & Engineering*

- Graduate Research Assistant, *Caiwen Ding* 2023 – Present

*Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics*

- Graduate Research Assistant, *Sandro Steinbach* 2018 – Present
- Graduate Teaching Assistant  
ARE 3250 Business Management, *Gabriel Marmolejos* Spring 2020  
ARE 2210/SARE 460 Essentials of Accounting and Business, *Joseph Bonelli* Fall 2019

*Eversource Energy Center (Partnership with UConn)*

- Graduate Research Assistant 2019 – 2020

*Fuzhou University, School of Economics and Management*

- Research Assistant

2014–2017

## Research

### *Publications*

- Carter, Colin A., Sandro Steinbach, and Xiting Zhuang. 2021. “‘Containergeddon’ and California Agriculture.” *ARE Update* 25(2): 1–4. University of California Giannini Foundation of Agricultural, University of California, Davis. [\[link\]](#)
- Carter, Colin A., Sandro Steinbach, and Xiting Zhuang. “Supply chain disruptions and containerized agricultural exports from California ports.”, *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*. 2022. [\[link\]](#)
- Steinbach, Sandro and Xiting Zhuang. “Global Container Shipping Disruptions, Pop-Up Ports, and U.S. Agricultural Exports”, *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*. 1-19. 2023 [\[link\]](#)
- Schweizer, Heidi, Sandro Steinbach and Xiting Zhuang. “A Portrait of Firms that Trade in Meat Products.”, *Western Economics Forum*. 2022. [\[link\]](#)
- Steinbach, Sandro and Xiting Zhuang. “The Impact of Maritime Shipping Disruptions on U.S. Tree Nut Exports and Inventories.”, *Agribusiness*. 2023. [\[link\]](#)
- Steinbach, Sandro and Xiting Zhuang. “U.S. Agricultural Exports and the 2022 Mississippi River Drought.”, *Agribusiness*, 2023. [\[link\]](#)
- Steinbach, Sandro and Xiting Zhuang. “Retaliatory Tariffs and Container Shipping Disruptions Cause Considerable Trade Damages to California’s Almond Industry.”, *Choice*, 38(2). [\[link\]](#)
- Xiting, Zhuang. “Urbanization Process and Carbon Emission in China Based on Semi-Parametric Spatial Lags Model.”, *Logistics Engineering and Management*. 2016.

### *Working Papers*

- “Global Supply Chain and Trade Shocks: Evidence from Chinese Trades during COVID-19.” (Job Market Paper) [\[Link\]](#)
- “Global Shipping Container Disruptions and U.S. Agricultural Exports.”, with Colin Carter, and Sandro Steinbach. (Under review) [\[link\]](#)
- “Global Trade Effects of Tightening Environmental Trade Policies in China.”, with Sandro Steinbach. [\[link\]](#)

### *Work in Progress*

- Covid-19 Pandemic on International Trade: Evidence from China
- “After Maths of the Basel Convention: The Trade Effects of Environmental Provisions in Preferential Trade Agreements.”
- “Environmental Standard, Waste Backhaul and Maritime Trade.”, with Sandro Steinbach. [\[link\]](#)
- “The Role of Clientele Politics on Agricultural Subsidies.”, with Sandro Steinbach.

### ***Outreach and Other Publications***

- Sandro Steinbach and Xiting Zhuang. “Down the River: How the 2022 Mississippi River Drought Damaged Southern U.S. Agricultural Trade.” *Southern Ag Today*. 2(4.5). 2023. [\[link\]](#)
- Heidi Schweizer, Sandro Steinbach and Xiting Zhuang. “International Market Concentration in the Southern Meat Trading Market.” *Southern Ag Today*. 2(29.4). 2022. [\[link\]](#)
- Sandro Steinbach and Xiting Zhuang. “Shipping Container Disruptions Cause Considerable Export Losses for Southern Ports.” *Southern Ag Today*. 2(17.4). 2022. [\[link\]](#)
- Sandro Steinbach and Xiting Zhuang. “Cost-Benefit Analysis of Detection Systems for Protecting Critical Infrastructure from UAV Threats in Connecticut,” *Eversource Energy*. 2021 [\[link\]](#)

### ***Selected Media Coverage***

- “US Is Losing Soybean-Export Edge as Brazil Closes Logistics Gap,” *Bloomberg*, September 6, 2022.  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-09-06/>
- “US Citrus Growers Struggle During Supply Chain Snarl,” *The Epoch Times*, February 16, 2022.  
<https://www.theepochtimes.com/>
- “Assembly Select Committee on Ports and Goods Movement,” *California State Assembly Committee on Agriculture*, February 2, 2022.  
<https://www.assembly.ca.gov/>
- ““Containergeddon” Results in \$2.1B Loss to California Farmers,” *Western Growers*, January 20, 2022.  
<https://www.wga.com/blog/“containergeddon”>
- “Containergeddon Cost Ag \$2.1 Billion Last Summer, And Supply Chain Bottlenecks Aren’t Over Yet.”, KVPR, NPR for *Central California*, January 11, 2022.  
<https://kvpr.org/business-economy/2022-01-11>
- “Inefficient California Ports Cost Farmers Billions.”, *UConn Today*, January 3, 2022.  
<https://today.uconn.edu/2022/01/>

### ***Extramural Funding***

- National Institute of Food and Agriculture, AFRI Program: “*Workshop on Transforming Agricultural Global Value Chains*,” (USD 50,000): assisted PI (S. Steinbach) with grant proposal writing, including reference and content editing.
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture, AFRI Program: “Evaluating the Impact of Preferential Trade Agreements on Agricultural and Food Trade: New Insights from Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning,” (USD 650,000): assisted PI (S. Steinbach) with grant proposal preparation, coordinated literature review for objectives 1 and 2, edited references and constructed workplan.
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture, EWD Program: “Measuring the Impact of Foreign Trade Shocks on Agriculture in the United States,” (USD 180,000): assisted PI (D. Kim) with text editing, references, and career plan development.

- “*Theory and Application of Semi-Parametric Global Vector Auto Regression Model*,” supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, Project No. 71571046. Supported and provided research assistance, 2014
- “*Application and Theory of Semi-parametric Spatial Panel Data Simultaneous Equation Model*,” supported by the Specialized Research Fund for the Doctoral Program of Higher Education of China (SRFDP), Project No. 20103514110009. Supported and provided research assistance, 2014

## Invited Conference & Seminar Presentations

- 2022 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting Washington DC  
“U.S. Agricultural Exports and the 2022 Mississippi River Drought” Jul, 2023
- 2023 AAEA at ASSA New Orleans, LA  
“Global Container Trade Disruptions, Pop-Up Ports, and U.S. Agricultural Exports” Jan, 2023
- 2022 International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium Clearwater, FL  
“Covid-19 Pandemic on International Trade: Evidence from China” Dec, 2022
- 2022 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting Anaheim, CA  
“Global Shipping Container Disruptions and U.S. Agricultural Exports” Aug, 2022
- 2022 Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association Meeting Mystic, CT  
“Supply Chain Crisis and Empty Shipping Containers” Jun, 2022
- 2022 Spring, CAHNR Graduate Student Research Forum, UConn Storrs, CT  
“Global Trade Effects of Tightening Environmental Standards in China” May, 2022
- Steinbach Research Group Seminar, UConn Storrs, CT  
“Global Shipping Container Disruptions and U.S. Agricultural Exports” Mar, 2022
- 2021 International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium Virtual  
“The heterogeneous effect of vaccination on trade in the United States” Jan, 2021
- 2021 Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Summer Meeting Virtual  
“The Waste Backhaul Between the United States and China” Jun, 2021
- 2021 European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Virtual  
“Environmental Standard, Waste Backhaul and Maritime Trade” Jun, 2021
- 2020 Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Annual Meeting (virtual) Mystic, CT  
“Global Waste Crisis? The Role of Chinese Environmental Trade Policies” Jul, 2020
- 2020 Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Summer Meeting Virtual  
“International Trade Effects of Stricter Environmental Trade Policies in China” Jun, 2020

- 2019 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting      Atlanta, GA  
     “Global Trade Effects of Tightening Environmental Standards in China”      Jul, 2019
- 2019 Agricultural and Resource Economics Seminar, University of Connecticut      Storrs, CT  
     “Global Trade Effects of Tightening Environmental Standards in China”      Oct, 2019

## Journal/Conference Referee

- International Food and Agribusiness Management Review
- Journal of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association
- AAEA

## Honors, Awards, & Fellowships

- Conference Participation Award, Graduate School, University of Connecticut, 2022
- 26th EAERE Participation Grant, EAERE 2021
- 2020-2021 Predoctoral Fellowship Award, ARE Department, University of Connecticut
- Summer Fellowship, ARE Department, University of Connecticut, 2020
- AAEA Travel Award, AAEA, 2019
- Summer Fellowship, ARE Department, University of Connecticut, 2019
- Xiamen University, TKK First Order Scholarship, 2011

## Affiliations

- Agricultural and Applied Economics Association
- International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium
- Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association
- Association of Environmental and Resource Economists
- European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists

## Miscellaneous

- *Computer Skills*: ArcGIS, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Stata, SQL, Python, Java, R
- *Languages*: English (Professional), Mandarin Chinese (Native), Hokkien (Native)

## References

Sandro Steinbach, Associate Professor (Major Advisor)  
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics  
North Dakota State University  
`sandro.steinbach@ndsu.edu`

Emma Bojinova, Associate Professor in Residence (Co-Major advisor)  
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics  
University of Connecticut  
`emma.bojinova@uconn.edu`

Charles Towe, Associate Professor  
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics  
University of Connecticut  
`charles.towe@uconn.edu`

Colin A. Carter, Distinguished Professor  
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics  
University of California, Davis  
`cacarter@ucdavis.edu`