

# Xiting Zhuang

Doctoral Candidate  
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University of Connecticut  
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics  
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Storrs CT 06269-4023

## Fields of Interest

Causal Inference, International Trade and Policy, Supply Chains

## Education

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

## Professional Experience

- Texas A&M University, Texas A&M AgriLife Research  
Postdoctoral Research Associate  
College Station, TX  
Mar 2024 - Present
- University of Connecticut, Department of Computer Science & Engineering  
Graduate Research Assistant, with Prof. Dr. Caiwen Ding  
Storrs, CT  
Aug 2023 - Jan 2024
- Eversource Energy Center  
Graduate Research Assistant  
Storrs, CT  
Jan 2019 - Oct 2020
- University of Connecticut, Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics  
Graduate Research Assistant, with Prof. Dr. Sandro Steinbach  
Storrs, CT  
Sep 2018 - Jan 2024

## Research Affiliations

North Dakota State University

- Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics, Research Affiliate  
2023 - Present

## Research

### *Publications*

- Steinbach, S., & Zhuang, X. (2023). Global Container Shipping Disruptions, Pop-Up Ports, and U.S. Agricultural Exports. *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*. 1-19. [\[link\]](#)
- Steinbach, S., & Zhuang, X. (2023). The Impact of Maritime Shipping Disruptions on U.S. Tree Nut Exports and Inventories. *Agribusiness*. [\[link\]](#)
- Steinbach, S., & Zhuang, X. (2023). U.S. Agricultural Exports and the 2022 Mississippi River Drought. *Agribusiness*. [\[link\]](#)
- Steinbach, S., & Zhuang, X. (2023). Retaliatory Tariffs and Container Shipping Disruptions Cause Considerable Trade Damages to California's Almond Industry.", *Choice*. 38(2) [\[link\]](#)
- Carter Colin A., Steinbach, S., & Zhuang, X. (2022). "Supply chain disruptions and containerized agricultural exports from California ports.", *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*. [\[link\]](#)
- Schweizer, H., Steinbach, S., & Zhuang, X. (2022). A Portrait of Firms that Trade in Meat Products. *Western Economics Forum*. [\[link\]](#)
- Carter, Colin A., Sandro Steinbach, and Xiting Zhuang.. "‘Containergeddon’ and California Agriculture." *ARE Update* 25(2): 1–4. University of California Giannini Foundation of Agricultural, University of California, Davis. 2021 [\[link\]](#)
- 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 Cost Shocks." [\[Link\]](#)
- "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*

- "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.

### *Policy Briefs and Outreach Work*

- Steinbach, S., Yildirim Y. & Zhuang, X. (2024). "Ripple Effects of Shipping Lane Disruptions on U.S. Agriculture." *Farmdoc Daily*, 14(19). Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, January 29, 2024. [\[link\]](#)
- Goyal R., Steinbach, S., Yildirim Y. & Zhuang, X. (2024). "Southern U.S. Agriculture Faces Headwinds in Asia Amid Red Sea Shipping Disruptions." *Southern Ag Today*, 4(4.4). [\[link\]](#)
- Steinbach, S., & Zhuang, X. (2023). "Down the River: How the 2022 Mississippi River Drought Damaged Southern U.S. Agricultural Trade." *Southern Ag Today*, 2(4.5). [\[link\]](#)

- Schweizer, H., Steinbach, S., & Zhuang, X. (2022). "International Market Concentration in the Southern Meat Trading Market." *Southern Ag Today*, 2(29.4). [[link](#)]
- Steinbach, S., & Zhuang, X. (2022). "Shipping Container Disruptions Cause Considerable Export Losses for Southern Ports." *Southern Ag Today*, 2(17.4). [[link](#)]
- Steinbach, S., & Zhuang, X. (2021). "Cost-Benefit Analysis of Detection Systems for Protecting Critical Infrastructure from UAV Threats in Connecticut," *Eversource Energy*. [[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

- 2023 International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium (IATRC) Clearwater, FL  
“Global Supply Chain and Trade Cost Shocks” Dec, 2023
- 2023 Agricultural & Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting (AAEA) 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 (IATRC) Clearwater, FL  
“Covid-19 Pandemic on International Trade: Evidence from China” Dec, 2022
- 2022 Agricultural & Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting (AAEA) Anaheim, CA  
“Global Shipping Container Disruptions and U.S. Agricultural Exports” Aug, 2022
- 2022 Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association Meeting (NAREA) 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 (IATRC) Virtual  
“The heterogeneous effect of vaccination on trade in the United States” Jan, 2021
- 2021 Association of Environmental & Resource Economists Summer Meeting (AERE) Virtual  
“The Waste Backhaul Between the United States and China” Jun, 2021
- 2021 European Association of Environmental & Resource Economists (EAERE) Virtual  
“Environmental Standard, Waste Backhaul and Maritime Trade” Jun, 2021
- 2020 Northeastern Agricultural & Resource Economics Annual Meeting (NAREA) Mystic, CT  
“Global Waste Crisis? The Role of Chinese Environmental Trade Policies” Jul, 2020
- 2020 Association of Environmental & Resource Economists Summer Meeting (AERE) Virtual  
“International Trade Effects of Stricter Environmental Trade Policies in China” Jun, 2020
- 2019 Agricultural & Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting (AAEA) Atlanta, GA  
“Global Trade Effects of Tightening Environmental Standards in China” Jul, 2019
- 2019 Agricultural & Resource Economics Seminar, University of Connecticut Storrs, CT  
“Global Trade Effects of Tightening Environmental Standards in China” Oct, 2019

## Referee Service

- Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics
- International Food and Agribusiness Management Review
- Journal of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association
- Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (Conference Review)

## 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,  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , Stata, SQL, Python, Java, R
- *Languages:* English (Professional), Mandarin Chinese (Native), Hokkien (Native)

## References

Sandro Steinbach, Associate Professor  
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics  
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Emma Bojinova, Associate Professor in Residence  
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics  
University of Connecticut  
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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`