

# Xiting Zhuang

Doctoral Candidate  
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University of Connecticut  
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics  
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## 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 - Current
- 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*

- 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

## Journal/Conference Referee

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

## 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

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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`