

# YUEZHOU YANG

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## EDUCATION

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### London School of Economics (LSE)

Ph.D. in International Development

M.Res. in International Development

Department of International Development

Dissertation: *Property Institutions, Politics, and Foreign Investment in Africa:*

*Cases of Chinese Agricultural Investments in Tanzania and Zambia*

London, UK

expt. June 2022

Dec 2018

### University of Illinois (UIUC)

M.Sc. in Bioenergy

Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Member, IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy

Urbana-Champaign, US

May 2017

### China Agricultural University (CAU)

B.Sc. in Agronomy

College of Agronomy and Biotechnology

Publication: “Alkali-based pretreatments distinctively extract lignin and pectin for enhancing biomass saccharification by altering cellulose features in sugar-rich Jerusalem artichoke stem.” *Bioresource Technology* (peer-reviewed), 2016, (with Li, M., Wang, J., & Xie, G.).

Beijing, China

July 2015

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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- Global Land Acquisitions, Land Politics, Land Tenure Regimes, Property Rights, Property Institutions in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)
- Comparative Politics and Political Economy in SSA
- China Africa, Chinese overseas economic actors and their behaviors in SSA
- Political Ecology, Biofuel Policy, Renewable Energy Policy, Environmental Policy and Environmental Governance
- Multi-Scale Intersection: State/Business, State/Society, People/Environment

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### Ph.D. Dissertation Research Project

Researcher

LSE

Sep 2017-present

- Designed doctoral research project based on a large volume of literature review and data analysis
- Conducted 5-month field research trips in Tanzania and Zambia and collected over 100 semi-structured in-depth interviews
- Building theories through process-tracing and typological theorizing.

### ESRC-funded Spatial Inequality Project: Tanzania Case Analysis

Research Assistant

LSE

Dec 2020-Feb 2021

- Created a time series of regional GDP and regional GDP per capital (2000-2018)

YUEZHOU YANG – C.V. – Jun. 2021

- Created a population by region database
- Analyzed data and interpreted the consistency and movement of political economic factors along the line of spatial inequality.

**World Bank Forest & Fisheries Projects  
Research Assistant**

UIUC  
Feb-July 2017

- Designed analytical framework for classifying World Bank forest and fisheries projects since 1950s
- Conducted data collection and analysis, and built up a preliminary dataset.

**Environmental Policy  
Policy Analyst**

UIUC & IUCN  
Sep-Dec 2016

- Analyzed the current frameworks and identified the gap to further develop sustainability standards for biofuels in the social aspects
- Delivered a report entitled “*International Inequality in Biofuel Policies and Human Rights to Land and Food Security*,” which evaluated EU and US biofuel policies, seven international standards and certifications, and analyzed the key gaps about the social impacts of biofuels and addressed recommendations.

**National Energy R&D Center for non-Food Biomass  
Quantitative Data Analysis**

CAU  
Apr 2013-May 2015

- Conducted thorough policy and literature review on China’s non-food biomass feed stock and non-arable land for energy crops
- Analyzed large-*N* data generated from hundreds of lab experiments by using SPSS
- Drafted a project report on the lignocellulose ethanol potential in China and gave the final presentation for the client, TOTAL.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Designing and Implementing Evidence-Informed Policies and Programmes (PP4J4)** LSE  
Co-Marker Dec 2020-Mar 2021

**African Political Economy (DV435)** LSE  
Research Assistant & Student Coach Jun-Dec 2020

**Power and Politics in the Modern World: Comparative Perspectives (GV248)** LSE  
Graduate Teaching Assistant Sep 2020-June 2021

**Gender Relations & International Development (GWS512)** UIUC  
Designed and Taught Two Lectures Jan-May 2017

**Environmental Policy (GEOG466)** UIUC  
Graduate Teaching Assistant May-July 2016

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS**

“Property Institutions and Their Explanatory Power on Foreign Land Investments in Zambia,” a paper presented on African Studies Association Conference, virtually, November 2020.

“Property Institutions, Politics, and Foreign Investment in Africa: Cases of Chinese Agricultural Investments in Tanzania and Zambia,” a paper presented on Development Studies Association Conference, virtually, June 2020.

“A Tale of Two Capitals in Two Countries: Property Institutions, Politics, and Foreign Investments in Africa,” a paper presented on Oxford University China-Africa Network, Oxford, February 2020.

“Are You Chinese?” A Reflection on ‘positionality’ from fieldwork experience in Tanzania and Zambia, a paper presented on Chinese Positionality Workshop, SOAS, January 2020.

“International Inequality in Biofuel Policies and Human Rights to Land and Food Security,” a paper presented on Comparative and International Education Society Conference, Environmental and Sustainability Education Special Topics, Atlanta, March 2017.

## **GRANTS & AWARDS**

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| 2021 | British Institute in Eastern Africa Thematic Grants, BIEA<br>Great Britain-China Educational Trust Chinese Students Award, GBCET<br>Supplemental Research Financing (RIIF Funds), LSE |
| 2020 | Supplemental Research Financing (RIIF Funds), LSE<br>PhD Travel Fund, International Development, LSE                                                                                  |
| 2019 | Supplemental Research Financing (RIIF Funds), LSE<br>Santander Travel Fund, Santander-LSE<br>PhD Travel Fund, International Development, LSE                                          |
| 2018 | PhD Travel Fund, International Development, LSE<br>Supplemental Research Financing (RIIF Funds), LSE                                                                                  |
| 2017 | Four-year PhD Scholarship from China Scholarship Council, CSC                                                                                                                         |
| 2014 | Scholarship for Outstanding Performance in Academics, CAU                                                                                                                             |
| 2013 | Scholarship for Outstanding Performance in Academics, CAU                                                                                                                             |
| 2012 | Scholarship for Outstanding Performance in Academics, CAU<br>Yang Zhenhui Scholarship for Outstanding Students in CAU                                                                 |

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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| 2021    | Co-Convener of Conference Panel on ‘Unsettling Land Institutions and Actors: New Ideas for land-related Research, Policy and Practice,’<br>Development Studies Association Conference, virtually, June (with Carolin Dieterle)<br><br>Co-Organizer of Land Politics and Development Seminar, DSA Study Group, monthly (with Carolin Dieterle)                               |
| 2020    | Co-Convener of Conference Panel on ‘Beyond the State? Emerging Actors in Land Governance in sub-Saharan Africa,’ Development Studies Association Conference, Birmingham, June (with Carolin Dieterle)<br><br>Co-Organizer of Workshop on ‘Chinese Positionality: A Reflexive Discussion on Conducting Research in Africa,’ LSE-SOAS, January (with Weidi Zhang & Hang Zhou) |
| 2019/20 | Co-Organizer of Land Politics Working Group Seminar, LSE-UCL, biweekly (with Catherine Boone)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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### **Anti-Child Labor Project Research Consultant**

Education Volunteers Ghana, Ghana  
July-Aug 2016

- Reviewed a large volume of literature, conducted elite interviews, designed questionnaire
- Provided professional ethnographic field research training to research team in an anti-child labor project and designed semi-structured, in-depth interview guidelines
- Produced a project report on eliminating child labor and preventing children from dropping out of school

## **METHODOLOGY TRAINING**

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2021 STATA, Python  
2020 ArcGis  
2018 Qualitative Methods in Studying Politics, Quantitative Methods in Political Science  
2017 Research Design in Political Science  
2016 Impact Evaluation (Economics), Methods of Field Research (Sociology)  
2014 Agricultural Economics and Management, Agricultural Information Technology (SAS, R Language, Hybrid-Maize, MapInfo, and Matlab), Trial Design and Biostatistics

## **ADDITIONAL**

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- Language: Chinese (native); English (full proficiency); Kiswahili (beginner)
- Music: Classically trained flutist and Ukulele beginner!

## **REFERENCES**

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### **Dr. Catherine Boone**

Prof. of Comparative Politics  
Dept. International Development &  
Government, LSE  
c.boone@lse.ac.uk  
+44 20 7107 5153  
*Academic Supervisor*

### **Dr. James Putzel**

Prof. of Development Studies  
Dept. International Development, LSE  
Director of Crisis States Research Center  
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*Academic Supervisor*

### **Dr. David Woodruff**

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*GTA Course Convenor*