

Yanlin Wan

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EDUCATION

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Phd, Individualized Interdisciplinary Program

Hongkong SAR

2021 - 2026 Expected

Bocconi University

MSc, Economic and Social Sciences

Milan, Italy

2018 - 2020

Beijing Forestry University

BMgt, Accounting

Beijing, China

2014 - 2018

RESEARCH INTEREST

Development Economics, Behavioral Economics

WORKING PAPERS

From Both Sides, But Not for All: Heterogeneous Effects of a Nationwide Mental Health Policy in China

with Yuzhi Hao, Xu Zhang

- **Abstract:** We evaluate a nationwide policy in China combining mental healthcare supply expansion with stigma reduction. Using a difference-in-differences design, we find significant average improvements in mental health. However, benefits are concentrated among low- and medium-risk population, with no detectable gains for the high-risk. We attribute this heterogeneity to an accessibility-privacy trade-off: community-based care expansion reduces travel time but increases social visibility that disproportionately deter high-risk individuals. A discrete choice experiment confirms that high-risk individuals respond weakly to accessibility improvements due to privacy concerns. We conclude that accessibility-focused interventions can inadvertently exclude the vulnerable, necessitating privacy-protected delivery channels for high-risk groups.

Nudge for Sanitation: Experimental Evidence from China

with Xu Zhang

- **Summary:** Uses a Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) to test the behavioral impact of six informational nudges on participation in China's rural sanitation reforms. Findings show that while any relevant information increases willingness, highlighting benefits or harms is most effective for long-term enrollment decisions, but only among subjects with higher initial program knowledge. Furthermore, the study finds a null effect of low-intensity peer influence (messenger effect), which suggests that policy interventions must address both knowledge barriers and cultural inertia to promote widespread adoption in anti-poverty campaigns. (Submitted)

Rewiring Opportunity: How Improved Internet Infrastructure Reduces Intra-City Income Inequality in China

with Xu Zhang, Yuzhi Hao, Aoqing Lyu, Masaru Yarime

- **Summary:** Employs staggered difference-in-differences to show that China's Broadband China Strategic Program significantly reduced intra-city income inequality by creating service sector employment opportunities for low skilled workers, particularly in logistics, with measurable income gains among low- and middle-income households. (Submitted)

Risk tolerance, soft skills, and sectoral sorting: Experimental Evidence from India

with Raja Rajendra Timilsina, Dil B Rahut, Tetsushi Sonobe

- **Summary:** Uses a lab-in-the-field experiment in urban India to investigate occupational sorting in dual labor markets. Findings reveal that sorting into digital vs. non-digital informal sectors reflects heterogeneous preferences over income risk, self-control, and openness, rather than simple technological adoption. Specifically, younger non-digital workers show higher risk tolerance, while digital workers exhibit greater self-control. The results formalize labor market segmentation and inform the design of risk-sharing and skill-building policies for future platform scalability. (Submitted)

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

- AI Policy in Education: A Randomized Control Experiment (with Jinghao Jia, Xu Zhang)
- Demand for Social Security Program among Informal Workers in Urban India (with Raja Rajendra Timilsina, Dil B Rahut, Ngawang Dendup, Tetsushi Sonobe)
- Digital Divide and Financial Inclusion Paradigm: Case Study of Indonesia and Bangladesh (with Arief Ramayandi, Dil B Rahut, Ngawang Dendup, Raja Rajendra Timilsina)

PRESENTATIONS

2025: Asian Development Bank Economist Forum; *International Research Society for Public Management Conference; *Atlanta Conference on Science and Innovation Policy; Asian Economic Development Conference; Asian Development Bank Institute Conference on Innovations for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development; The Behavioral Science in Action (BeSA) Conference 2025 at Peking University

2024: Xiamen University International Workshops on Experimental Economics; Asian Economic Development Conference; Technology, Data, and Policy Conference at Massachusetts Institute of Technology; HKUST(Guangzhou) IPE Seminar

2023: North America Meetings of Economic Science Association; Asian Pacific Public Policy Network; HKUST(Guangzhou) IPE Seminar

2022: *ShenZhen University Public Policy and Experimental Economics Workshop; *Annual Conference on Chinese Development Theory at Renmin University of China

*indicates presentation by a coauthor

AWARDS

2021-2025: Postgraduate Scholarship, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

2025: Honorable Mention, Asian Development Bank-International Economic Association Innovative Policy Research Award

2023: First Prize, Graduate Students Development Economics Conference University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; Research Travel Grant

2020: Fondo Sostegno Giovani and International Organization Scholarship, Bocconi University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

12/2025 - Present: Consultant, **Asian Development Bank Institute**

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Brussels, Belgium

Policy Research Intern

02/2020 – 07/2020

- Supervisor: Patrick Gilabert
- Participate in the study and analysis of the EU's fundamental policy areas related to UNIDO mandate
- Provide analytical support to UN House Working Group on Green Deal and project managers
- The report titled *The EU Global Response to COVID-19* is available at UNIDO website

Beijing Forestry University

Beijing, China

Research Assistant

12/2014 - 12/2015

- Supervisor: Dahong Zhang
- Literature review and data collection for the research project titled *Research on Ecological Safety Index (ESI)*

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Spring 2023: Behavioral Economics and Public Policy (Graduate)

Fall 2022: Experimental Economics and Organizational Behavior (Graduate)

SKILLS

Programming: Stata, LaTeX, ArcGIS, R, Python

Language: Chinese(Native), English(Fluent), Italian(Basic)

REFEREES

Assistant Professor Dr.Xu Zhang

Society Hub, The Hongkong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou)

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Associate Professor Dr.Masaru Yarime

Division of Public Policy, The Hongkong University of Science and Technology

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Assistant Professor Dr.Zihan Hu

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✉ zihanhu@smu.edu.sg

Vice Chair of Research & Senior Research Economist Dr.Dil Rahut

Research Department, Asian Development Bank Institute

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