

XIBO WAN

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EMPLOYMENT

University of Connecticut Storrs, CT	2023-2026 (<i>expected</i>)
Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics	
MIT Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research Boston, MA	2021-2023
Postdoctoral Associate, MIT Energy Initiative	

EDUCATION

Iowa State University	2016 - 2021
Ph.D., Economics	
Economics Department	
Thesis: <i>Essays on Chemical Regulation, Drinking Water Policy, and Recreational Value</i>	
Advisor: Prof. Wendong Zhang, Prof. David Keiser (co-Advisor)	
Central University of Finance and Economics Beijing, China	
M.S., Labor Economics, China Center for Human Capital and Labor Market Research	2013 - 2016
B.S., Logistics, Business School	2009 - 2013

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental and Energy Economics, Agricultural Economics, Food Policy, Human Mobility

PUBLICATIONS

1. Li, H., Wan, X., & Zhang, W. (2024). How do firms respond to political tensions? Evidence from Chinese food importers. *The World Economy*, 47(8), 3618-3647.
2. Zhang W., Wan X., Ji Y., & Fan W. (2024). Uncovering disparities in water-based outdoor recreation using cellphone mobility data. *Environmental Research Letters*, 19(11), 114057.
3. Wan, X., Vo, M, Connolly, C., & Steinbach, S. (*forthcoming*). Leveraging mobility data for economic research: Insights, challenges, and methodological advances. *Journal of Economic Surveys*.

WORKING PAPERS

1. *Quantifying Recreational Benefits from Fish Consumption Advisories: Insights from Cellphone Mobility Data*
With Yongwang Ren, Ruohao Zhang, Jiameng Zheng, and Wendong Zhang. (**Revise & Resubmit** at Land Economics, **Special Issue**)
2. *Causal Inference and Recreation Demand Estimation with Zero Market Shares in Cellphone Mobility Data: A Case of 2021 Huntington Beach Oil Spill*
With Nieyan Cheng. (**Revise & Resubmit** at Land Economics, **Special Issue**)
3. *Evaluating Precision, Privacy, and Representation with Cell Phone Data: Evidence from Cape Cod Beaches*
With Cristina Connolly, Sandro Steinbach, and Mike Vo. (**Revise & Resubmit** at Land Economics, **Special Issue**)

4. *Planes Overhead: How Airplane Noise Impacts Your Home's Value*
With Florian Allroggen, R. John Hansman, Christopher R. Knittel, Jing Li, and Juju Wang. (**Under Review**)
5. *Unequal Waters: Socioeconomic Disparities in Recreational Benefits from Water Quality Improvements*
With Wenran Fan, Yongjie Ji, and Wendong Zhang. (**Under Review**)
6. *Beyond Asset Losses: Estimating the Economic Cost of Floods*
with Seunghoon Lee and Siqi Zheng. (**Under Review**)
7. *Bringing the Neighborhood Farm to the Table: Demand, Supply, and the Visit Gap at Farmers' Markets*
with Cristina Connolly and Sandro Steinbach. (**Under Review**)
8. *Shrinkflation, Unit Price Disclosure, and Consumer Welfare: Evidence from Canned Tuna*
With Katherine Harris-Lagoudakis and John Crespi. (**Under Review**)
9. *The Impact of Texas Senate Bill 8 on Family Care Utilization: Evidence from Large-Scale Mobility Data*
with Mike Vo, Cristina Connolly, Sandro Steinbach, and Debarchana Ghosh. (**Under Review**)
10. *When Nature Turns Hazy: How Wildfire Smoke Affects Outdoor Recreation*
with Wendong Zhang and Yau-Huo (Jimmy) Shr. (**Under Review**)
11. *I Love That Dirty Water? Value of Water Quality in Recreation Sites*
with Christopher Knittel and Jing Li.
12. *Integrating Recreational Benefits into Hedonic Property Value Models: Evidence from Iowa*
with Pengfei Liu, Wendong Zhang, and Yongjie Ji.
13. *Employment Effects of Environmental Regulations: Evidence from the Clean Water Act*
with Jianwei Ai, Anton Yang, and Wendong Zhang.
14. *Chemical Disclosures, Regulations, and Consumer Learning: Evidence from the Baby bottle Industry*
with David A. Keiser.

RESEARCH REPORTS/OUTREACH PUBLICATION

1. X. Wan, Y. Ji, and W. Zhang. 2022. Iowa Lakes Drive over \$1 Billion in Recreational Spending each Year. *CARD Agricultural Policy Review*, Spring 2022.
2. X. Wan, Y. Ji, and W. Zhang. 2021. The Iowa Lakes Valuation Project 2019: Summary and Findings. A Report to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, *CARD Staff Report 21-SR-115*, Nov 2021
3. R. Zhang, X. Wan, J. Zheng, and W. Zhang. 2025. You can be exposed to PFAS through food, water, even swimming in lakes - new maps show how risk from forever chemicals varies. *The Conversation*, October 2025.

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

1. *Out-of-sight, Out-of-mind? Distance Decay in Use and Non-use Value of Water Quality*
with Emmett Reynier.
2. *Beyond Supermarkets: Measuring the Impact of Food Environment on Healthy Store Utilization*
with Mike Vo, Cristina Connolly, and Sandro Steinbach.
3. *Differential Privacy and Cellphone Mobility Data: Implications for Economic Research*

with Mike Vo, Cristina Connolly, and Sandro Steinbach.

4. *Disparities in Wildfire Evacuation: Evidence from Cellphone Mobility Data*
with Junxian Tang, and Ruohao Zhang.

5. *Plug and Shop: Exploring the Local Business Effect of EV Charging Stations*
with Junxian Tang, and Ruohao Zhang.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Gregory Chow Best Paper Award (Bronze), Chinese Economists Society Annual Conference 2025
Causal Inference and Recreation Demand Estimation with Zero Market Shares in Cellphone Mobility Data: A Case of 2021 Huntington Beach Oil Spill

RESEARCH GRANTS

AWARDED PROJECTS

1. R. Zhang, **X. Wan, (co-PI)**, J. Zheng, and W. Zhang, **\$100,000**, "From Awareness to Action: Assessing PFAS exposure in communities and evaluating the effectiveness of its mitigation strategies", **Funded**, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, 2023-2025.
2. W. Zhang, Y. Ji, S. David, and **X. Wan, (co-PI)**, **\$40,000**, "Environmental Justice for All: the Nutrient Impacts on Lake-Based Recreation and Tourism by Rural and Socially Disadvantaged Iowans", **Funded**, Iowa Water Center and Iowa Nutrient Research Center Joint Grant Competition, 2021-2022.

UNFUNDED PROPOSALS

1. R. Zhang, **X. Wan, (co-PI)**, Z. Lei, X. Hu, S. Jonathan, "Optimization and Impacts of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Expansion in Rural Areas: An Integrated Model for Travel Demand, Charging Behaviors, and Electric Grid Operation", **Unfunded**, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, 2026-2028.

SUBMITTED PROPOSALS

1. **X. Wan, (PI)**, C. Connolly, S. Steinbach, M. Vo, N.H. Merrill, A. Earle, "Partnership: Revolutionizing Coastal Recreation Valuation with Nationwide Cell Phone Mobility Data and Machine Learning", **Submitted**, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Grants, 2025-2029.
2. **X. Wan, (PI)**, C. Connolly, S. Steinbach, M. Vo, R. Zhang, "Partnership: Measuring Agritourism Demand, Competition, and Rural Impacts Using Big Data and Machine Learning", **Submitted**, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Grants, 2026-2030.
3. C. Chen, **X. Wan, (co-PI)**, N. Shinde, "Partnership: From Agricultural Practices to Public Benefits: Valuing Biodiversity and Recreation at Scale", **Submitted**, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Grants, 2026-2029.
4. **X. Wan, (PI)**, C. Connolly, S. Steinbach, M. Vo, "Measuring the Economic Value of Rural Water-Based Recreation: A Data-Driven Framework for Sustainable Community Growth", **Submitted**, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Grants, 2026-2030.
5. R. Zhang, **X. Wan, (co-PI)**, Z. Lei, X. Hu, J. Snodgrass, "Partnership: Expanding Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure in Rural Areas: Economic Impacts, Travel Demand, and Grid Stabilization", **Submitted**, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Grants, 2026-2029.
6. J. Zheng, K. Ferin, **X. Wan, (co-PI)**, R. Zhang, S. Zuidema, "Partnership: Economic Returns to Source Water Protection and Safe Drinking Water Systems in Rural America", **Submitted**, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Grants, 2026-2029.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, 2019 Iowa Lakes Survey <i>Iowa State University</i>	Jan 2020 - Aug 2021 <i>Supervisor: Prof. Wendong Zhang</i>
Research Assistant, National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) Plus Program <i>Iowa State University</i>	May 2018 - Aug 2018 <i>Supervisor: Prof. David A. Keiser</i>
Research Assistant, Early Career Scheme (ECS) <i>Hong Kong Baptist University</i>	Sep 2014 - May 2015 <i>Supervisor: Prof. Weiwei Weng</i>
Research Assistant, China Human Capital Measurement and Index Project <i>Central University of Finance and Economics</i>	Sep 2013 - May 2015 <i>Supervisor: Prof. Haizheng Li</i>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Guest Lecturer, Energy Economics: Sustainable Transitions <i>University of Connecticut</i>	Oct 2025
Guest Lecturer, Principles of Microeconomics <i>University of Connecticut</i>	Jan 2024
Transforming Your Research Into Teaching (TYRIT) Teaching Certificate <i>Iowa State University</i>	May 2020 - July 2020
Recitation Leader, Microeconomics Analysis I <i>Iowa State University</i>	Sept 2019 - Dec 2019
Teaching Assistant, Intermediate Environmental and Resource Economics <i>Iowa State University</i>	Sept 2018 - Dec 2018
Teaching Assistant, Economics of Discrimination <i>Iowa State University</i>	2017, 2018, 2019
Teaching Assistant, Principles of Microeconomics <i>Iowa State University</i>	2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

PRESENTATIONS (INCLUDING SCHEDULED)

2025-2026: Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA) Annual Meeting, Social Cost of Water Pollution Workshop, MIT CEEPR Energy & Environmental Economics Workshop, Pennsylvania State University EEPI Seminar, Tufts University Brown Bag Seminar, UConn Econ Microeconomic Seminar, UConn ARE Graduate Research Seminar, Workshop on the Economics and Policy of Electric Transportation Charging Infrastructure

2024-2025: Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE) Conference, Southern Economics Association (SEA) Annual Meeting, Social Cost of Water Pollution Workshop, University of Hawaii at Manoa

2023-2024: Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Conference, Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE) Conference, Social Cost of Water Pollution Workshop, UConn Mobility Data Workshop, MIT CEEPR Energy & Environmental Economics Workshop

2022-2023: Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Conference, Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE) Conference, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop, MIT data mining group, MIT CEEPR Energy & Environmental Economics Workshop, Northeast Workshop

2021-2022: Southern Economics Association (SEA) Annual Meeting, Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis 2022 Annual Meeting, Northeast Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA) Virtual Annual Meeting

2020-2021: Missouri Valley Economic Association (MVEA) Annual Meeting, Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE) Conference, Southern Economics Association (SEA) Annual Meeting, Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Referee:

National Science Foundation (NSF - SBIR/STTR), Journal of Regional Science (JRS), Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics (CJAE), Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (JAERE), Journal of Environmental Economics and Management (JEEM), Land Economics, Climatic Change, Economic Journal

Campus and Department:

Economics Graduate Student Association - <i>President</i>	<i>Aug 2018 - May 2019</i>
Economics Graduate Student Seminar - <i>Coordinator</i>	<i>Aug 2018 - May 2019</i>
China Center for Human Capital and Labor Market Research - <i>President</i>	<i>Sep 2014 - May 2015</i>

Session Moderator/Chair:

Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) - <i>Moderator</i>	<i>Aug 2020</i>
Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE) - <i>Moderator</i>	<i>June 2020</i>

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Economic Association, Agricultural & Applied Economics Association, Association of Environmental and Resource Economists

PROGRAMMING SKILLS

Python, Stata, Matlab, R, QGIS, SQL, Latex, Office, JavaScript

LANGUAGES

Chinese (native), English (Proficient)

REFERENCES

Available Upon Request