

Tao Xu, MSc

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A driven and motivated individual preparing my PhD application, graduating with a highest distinction from NUFE and a merit from the University of Edinburgh, with extensive professional and academic experience gained from Mazars, Deloitte, DKU, NUFE, NJU, and SUFE. Possessing exceptional analytical skills, and a proven track record of thriving in very pressurised and challenging environments. Committed to continuous personal development, and seeking more professional challenges to apply my knowledge and transferable skill set from scientific models to the real world.

SKILLS & RESEARCH INTERESTS

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|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| ▪ Urban Economic Development | ▪ Critical Development Studies | ▪ Development Policy and Planning |
| ▪ Transport Infrastructure in Urban Regeneration and Development | ▪ Political Economy of Urban and International Development | ▪ Transport Policy & Development |
| ▪ Economic Sociology of Urban-Rural Inequality & Gentrification | ▪ Heterodox Economics of Development & Structural Change | ▪ Industrial Policy and Strategy |
| | | ▪ Social Policy & Poverty |
| | | ▪ Political Settlements Framework |

QUALIFICATIONS & AWARDS

M.Sc. Development Studies (International Development, Merit) - The University of Edinburgh, *Nov 2024*

Dissertation Topic: The Road Not Taken? Industrial Policy and Political Settlements in China and Indonesia 1990–2022

Supervisor: Hazel Gray, PhD, Senior Lecturer in African Studies & International Development

Key Modules: Anthropology of International Development; Politics and Theories of International Development; Research Design & Practice; Resource Politics and Development; Interpreting Development Institutions & Practices; Governance, Development and Poverty in Africa; Key Skills in Development Practice

B.Sc. Economics (Commercial Economics, 1st: 91.29) - Nanjing University of Finance & Economics, *Jun 2023*

Dissertation Topic: Towards Sustainable Prosperity? Policy Evaluation of Jiangsu Advanced Manufacturing Clusters

Supervisor: Yabei Hu, PhD, Professor of Industrial Economics

Key Modules: Microeconomics; Macroeconomics; Econometrics; International Economics; Industrial Organisation; Regional & Urban Economics; Regional Market and Interregional Trade; Business Design & Innovation; Marketing; Business Economics; Economics of Business Enterprise; Retailing and Wholesaling Studies; Economic History

Summer/Winter Schools, Workshops & Seminars

Marxian Political Economy, Advanced - Wuhan University, *Jul 2023 – 2024*

Economics of AI, Adv - University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, *Jul 2024*

Research Methodology in Applied Economics, Adv - Nanjing Agricultural University, *Aug 2023*

Big Data Analytics in Geospatial Sciences, Adv - Nanjing Normal University, *Aug 2023*

International Business Management - UCLA & University of Saint Joseph, *Jan 2022*

Training, Courses & Certifications

IELTS Academic C1, NCRE L2, Excel & Access & Publisher & Canva (IT Literate & Communication)

Stata & NVivo & VOSviewer & ArcMap & Matlab & CiteSpace (Quantitative Economics, Econometrics & Text Analytics)

Understanding Research Methods - SOAS Game Theory - UBC and Stanford University

Korean Economic Development - Yonsei University Local Economic Development - Erasmus University Rotterdam

Microeconomics, Economics of Health Care Delivery, Comparative Health Systems - University of Pennsylvania
Health Systems Development, Epidemiology - University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Imperial College London
New Structural Economics, Behavioural Economics, Advanced Quantitative Social Research, Introduction to Logic -
Peking University and Central University of Finance & Economics

Honours & Awards

Jiangsu Provincial Government Scholarship for Overseas Studies	NUFE Principal's Scholarship
Jiangsu Provincial Distinguished Dissertation Award 1st Class	NUFE Honours Graduate
NUFE Distinguished Dissertation Award	NUFE Honours Student
NUFE Merit Scholarship for Academic Excellence	NUFE Outstanding Student Leader Award
NUFE Merit Scholarship for High Calibre	NNU Outstanding Student Award
WHU Outstanding Student Award	WHU Distinguished Paper Award

Professional Memberships

Association for Social Economics (ASE1496) Chinese Society for Technology Economics (I031402003A)
Chinese Society for Optimisation, Overall Planning & Economic Mathematics (S320004285A)

PUBLICATIONS

- "Towards Sustainable Prosperity? Policy Evaluation of Jiangsu Advanced Manufacturing Clusters," with Yabei Hu*, *Technology in Society*, 2024, 102583, honoured by Jiangsu Provincial Distinguished Dissertation Award

WORK IN PROGRESS

- "Crusader Complex: Good Governance and Political Settlements in Africa and Beyond," with Shengjie Zhou, 2025
- "When Polanyi Met Schumpeter: Social Trust and Entrepreneurship," with Weiwei Zhu*, 2025, MPRA 123461
- "Economic Growth, Poverty Mitigation, and Social Policy in our Neoliberal Era: A Polanyian Perspective," 2024
- "The Third Way: Reinterpreting the Political Settlements Framework with Structuration Theory," 2024, SocArXiv nmvhq
- "The Road Not Taken? Industrial Policy and Political Settlements in China and Indonesia 1990–2022," 2024, supervised by Dr Hazel Gray, UoE PGSP11291 s2475073, marked as Dissertation of Distinction
- "It Takes Three to Ceilidh: Pension System and Multidimensional Poverty Mitigation in China," with Yansong Wang*, and Cheng Yuan, 2024, arXiv 2411.02807
- "The e-CNY as a Cure for Small and Medium Enterprise Financing Obstacles? Based on Modelling and Simulation of Evolutionary Game Dynamics," with Yansong Wang*, 2022, ChinaXiv 202207.00004
- "Peasant Life in Changing China: Rural Pension System Reform and Social Insurance Participation," with Zhengyi Hu, advised by Dr Yongliang Wu, 2022, arXiv 2204.00785

REPORTS, PRESENTATIONS & BOOK REVIEWS

- "Transformative Communication in Development Organisation: Strategic Engagement and Celebrity Influence," 2024, MediArXiv 8kabz, Edinburgh
- "Turbulence and Order in Economic Development: Economic Transformation in Tanzania and Vietnam by Hazel Gray," 2024, Edinburgh
- "To Rebel, or Not to Rebel? People First Anthropology in Development Praxis," 2024, Edinburgh
- "Just Transition: Free, Prior, and Informed Consent in Resource-Driven Development," 2023, Edinburgh
- "Belt of Productivity, Road to Equality: People First Infrastructure Development in Indonesia," 2023, Edinburgh
- "Having People, Having Heart: Charity, Sustainable Development, and Problems of Dependence in Central

Uganda by China Scherz," 2023, Edinburgh

- "Common Prosperity and the Middle Class," *WHU Proceedings of the Summer Institute on Marxian Economics*, 2023, 4, 1–5, Wuhan
- "The Theory of Economic Development by Joseph Schumpeter," 2022, Nanjing
- "Frontiers and Evolution of Employment Studies in China," with Weiwei Zhu, advised by Prof Dr Wenwu Zhang, 2021, MPRA 112908, Nanjing
- "Survey on Local Pharmaceutical Specialty Stores: Retail Formats and Elements," with Yukun Gu, Yibo Wang, Dapeng Zhu, Wei Li, Zhenyu Zhang, Jingxia Hou, and Yuhan Yang, advised by Prof Jinguo Tao, 2021, Nanjing
- "A Study of History by Arnold Toynbee," 2021, Nanjing
- "Mismatch and Dysfunction of the Ageing Economy: Digital Transformation in Silver-Hair Industry," with Yukun Gu, Yibo Wang, Yansong Wang, and Qifei Chen, *Journal of the Jiangsu Association for Commercial Economics*, 2021, 38, 1–9, Nanjing
- "Reshaping Silver-Hair Industry with New Retailing: A SWOT-Based Strategy," *Journal of the China Federation of Logistics*, 2021, 28, 82–85, Nanjing
- "Survey on the Ageing Society in Rural Guannan: Consumption, Social Security, and Manufacturing for Silver-Hair Economy," with Yukun Gu, and Yibo Wang, advised by Dr Qifei Chen, 2020, Guannan & Nanjing

RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Peer Advisor - Nanjing University Department of Finance (Nanjing) 2023 – Present

Finance, Social Insurance, Academic Reading & Writing, Peer Mentoring

- Mentored MPhil students in postgraduate-level academic writing and research methodology in economics
- Delivered strategic advice for literature management, organised personalised workshops, and conducted tutoring in new structural economics & causal inference (Bartik-IV) in econometrics
- Facilitated collaborative efforts between students and supervisors from Tsinghua University PBC School of Finance and Peking University Guanghua School of Management, advised on original research writing and proposal development towards National Natural Science Foundation of China
- Supported a range of research on digital government information disclosure, political trust in government, implicit government guarantees, state-owned enterprise reform, and economic insecurity & inequality
- Advised MPhil, MSc, and MA peer students at Nanjing University, Southeast University, Hunan University, Shanghai University of Finance & Economics, and University of Bristol on career planning

Nanjing University of Finance & Economics (Nanjing) 2019 – 2024

Co-Investigator & Research Associate - School of International Economics & Business 2022 – 2024

- Worked on National Social Science Fund of China Programme 'Optimisation of Industrial Ecosystems for Advanced Manufacturing Clusters Based on Producer Services' supervised by Prof Dr Yabei Hu
- Carried out a critical appraisal of the relevant literature on manufacturing and industrial policy, incorporating interdisciplinary knowledge of development economics, international business, and regional science into a coherent theoretical perspective
- Selected, compiled, and perused the publicly available policy documents issued by corresponding functional departments of the Jiangsu government, qualitatively summarised the relevance of the gist
- Operationalised a mixed methodology by a triple analytical framework, both qualitatively and quantitatively analysed a dataset of 52 official documents, scrutinised policy themes, instruments, and controls through textual mining and PMC index modelling
- Independently conducted investigation, data collection, visualisation, theoretical contextualisation, draft writing, submission, and communication of the manuscript

- Collaborated with the principal investigator in conceptualisation, validation, interpretation, and revision
- Produced original research paper 'Towards Sustainable Prosperity? Policy Evaluation of Jiangsu Advanced Manufacturing Clusters' published in *Technology in Society*, honoured by Provincial Distinguished Award

Peer Advisor - School of Public Administration

2021 – 2022

- Advised on 'Rural Revitalisation: Dilemmas and Prospects of Entrepreneurship in Less-Developed Areas'

Co-Investigator & Coordinator - School of International Economics & Business

2021 – 2022

- Collaboratively worked on National 'Culture, Science & Health to Rural China' Programme 'Cultural Heritage and Industrial Organisation in Less-Developed Areas' with Weiwei Zhu, honoured by National Excellent Award, Provincial Special Award, and NUFE Best Report Award 1st Class
- Cooperated with the Shuyang government, conducted modern history investigation to organise specialised educational lecture series tailored to regional cultural endowments
- Introduced innovative media campaigns across platforms (Virtual Museum, WeChat, Tiktok & Weibo) to create interactive and immersive visibility and accessibility of cultural heritage towards sustainable public participation and integration of cultural preservation and tourism aligned with economic development

Team Leader - Chinese Society for Optimisation & Economic Mathematics

2021

- Worked on 'MathorCup' Mathematical Contest in Modelling with Yansong Wang and Yukun Gu

Lead Investigator - School of International Economics & Business

2020 – 2021

- Worked on 'Reshaping Silver-Hair Industry with New Retailing: A Story of China' advised by Dr Qifei Chen
- Organised the programme from inception to completion, not limited to fundraising, team recruitment, duty allocation, administrative coordination, and resource distribution, to ensure timely delivery of goals
- Conducted extensive literature reviews and synthesised insights on the so-termed 'silver-hair economy' and 'new retailing', constructed a comprehensive fieldwork plan, designed targeted survey questionnaires to investigate the consumption behaviours of older adults and market challenges in an ageing society
- Organised fieldtrip surveys in Guannan, engaged in face-to-face interviews and in-depth discussions to capture the nuanced demands and preferences of the county older persons in digital technology adoption and new retailing participation
- Managed online surveys targeting younger individuals, adopted an intergenerational perspective to analyse the familiarity of older adults with smart devices and the influence of their younger generations on digital consumption patterns of older persons, produced a detailed segmentation of the silver-hair market
- Analysed data from rural and urban fringe areas, identified the supply-demand mismatch and systemic inefficiency in the silver-hair industry, and proposed actionable strategy with e-commerce, big data, and smart logistics to tackle the gaps through digital transformation
- Disseminated findings through various media platforms with recommendation from Tibet Chief Secretary and Deputy Speaker Chunlai Zhou
- Authored two published reports 'Reshaping Silver-Hair Industry with New Retailing: A SWOT-Based Strategy' and 'Mismatch and Dysfunction of the Ageing Economy: Digital Transformation in Silver-Hair Industry', drafted the working paper 'Rural Pension System Reform and Social Insurance Participation' with feedback from Bangkok-based World Bank economists

Student Assistant - NUFE Admissions Committee

2019 – 2021

Research Assistant - School of Business Administration

2020

- Worked on Jiangsu Administration for Market Regulation Programme 'Customer Satisfaction Evaluation of Tertiary Sector'

- Distributed and managed online surveys to collect data and ensure public participation

Coordinator Assistant (Intern) - Duke Kunshan University Office of Student Affairs (Kunshan) 2023

Campus Engagement, Arts & Culture, Clubs & Organisations, FYE & SYE Transition

- Planned and managed recruitment & training sessions, policy revisions, evaluation forms, poster-and-flyer designs, and general coordination to ensure the success of FYSAC, Orientation, and Commencement
- Utilised effective communication skills to support student worker interviews, advised on the development and organisation of student groups including FYSAC (14), OL (107), and Commencement Volunteer (97), selected student leaders, FYSAC chairs and OL captains based on resumes and interview reports
- Attended leadership interviews, presentations, and participated in Student Affairs Learning Series (Becoming Socialised in Student Affairs Administration, NASPA Competency, DEI, and Vowels of Supervision)
- Collected and evaluated event data on program for the spring semester, demonstrated creative writing and infographic design skills to prepare slides and materials for meetings and public account promotions
- Identified characteristics of (un)successful events, and proposed improvements to the evaluation system
- Distributed packages for multiple events, and delivered souvenirs to participants involved in Scavenger Hunt, MOMENT, and De-Stress Festival
- Studied exhibition legal documents, drafted licensing and copyright agreements and contracts for the use of photography works and portraits
- Worked with Clubs & Orgs and FYE as a liaison, compiled info on club leaders for marketing, and coordinated various events such as Expo, Arts & Music Festival, and Guest Speaker Lectures (Google China & UNHCR)
- Worked as the Commencement Committee Assistant, oversaw and improved the content of DKU Yearbook 2023, and translated Chancellors' Remarks for the Commencement Brochure and UG Bulletin
- Coordinated graduation-related tasks such as ceremony, banquet, and concert, and wrote letters, intros, and surveys to announce on DKU Commencement website in English and Chinese
- Assisted with social media, summarised policy-and-procedure docs for the establishment of WeChat official account, arranged (sub-)columns, planned content, structure, and time stage of posting articles and tweets
- Executed administrative and logistical tasks including deposit reimbursement (expense reports), storage management, quarterly reflections, minutes of meetings, and email organisation

Executive Assistant & Analyst Associate - HQSW (Kunshan)

2019 – 2022

Information & Consultation, Certification & Accreditation, FDI, International Trade Administration

Advisor Assistant (Intern) - Deloitte Division of Tax (Suzhou)

2021

Tax & Business Advisory Services, Transfer Pricing, Operations Transformation

- Combined business overviews regarding fixed assets, tax credits, inventories, and contingencies
- Assisted in analytical reporting, translated 3 appendices of transfer pricing drafts, and supported analyst team to search comparable manufacturers and service providers with TP Catalyst
- Supported the team to retrieve 517 CAs, reviewed 33 potential CAs, and selected 8 CAs for CUP analysis
- Collated Petroliam Nasional Bhd (PMCL, PLSC & PCMC) financial statements and organisation structures
- Prepared a 42-page report analysing multinational business, intangible assets, and intra-group financing
- Analysed real estate and tax incentives for investment promotion in Changzhou and Wuxi, and advised on industrial layout of labour-intensive foreign-owned entities in Shanghai Metropolitan Area
- Consulted the State Administration of Foreign Exchange in Xiamen, Bureau of Commerce, and International Investment Centre to apply accounting treatment regarding group internal capital flow by agreement

Audit Assistant (Intern) - Mazars Division of Audit and Assurance (Suzhou)

2021

Annual Audit, Reporting & Accounting Operations Advisory Services

- Audited balance sheets and P&L statements of Xiangcheng collective assets
- Calculated financial details, reported on large transactions, tracked and matched the flow of funds and financial statements, and wrote 31 draft report sections
- Verified state-owned assets of Kunshan Hi-Tech Group, and independently drafted 7 audit working papers

Consultant Assistant (Intern) - CITIC Division of Wealth Management (Kunshan) 2020

Research Assistant - Bureau of Finance (Kunshan) 2019

Secretary Assistant - Administration for Market Regulation (Kunshan) 2018

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Language Proficiency

Fluent in English and Mandarin with a good understanding of Wu and Literary Chinese, actively learning French now

Peer Review

PLoS One, Heliyon, Journal of Infrastructure Policy and Development, World Development Sustainability