

Wenchao Xu

Department of Economics
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Applied Economics, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics,
Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 2010

Dissertation title: “Essays on the Interactions between Land Use, Natural Amenity
and Wildfire Risk”

Dissertation committee: JunJie Wu, Richard Adams, Munisamy Gopinath, Andrew
Plantinga, and Kipp Shearman

Master in Economics, Xiamen University, Xiamen, Fujian, China 2003

Bachelor in Economics, Xiamen University, Xiamen, Fujian, China 2000

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Post-doctoral Research Associate, Idaho NSF EPSCoR at Boise State University

07/2010-current

Water Resources in a Changing Climate (with Dr. Siân Mooney, Dr. Kelly Courbon,
and Dr. Scott Lowe)

- Collaborate with project faculty on policy-relevant research questions pertaining to water resources/land use and climate change in the U.S. Intermountain West, with a particular focus on Idaho.
- Compile and synthesize data produced by multiple disciplines at disparate spatial and temporal scales.
- Disseminate findings via conference presentations and peer-reviewed publications.

Graduate Research Assistant, Oregon State University

10/2006-06/2010

**Land Use Change and Wildfire at the Wildland Urban Interface Area in a
Changing Climate** (with Professor JunJie Wu)

- Investigated the effects of human activities, climate, and other environmental features on wildfire activities in collaboration with ecologists and climatologists.
- Collected qualitative and quantitative data from various sources at federal, state, and local levels, including USGS, USDA, U.S. Census, PRISM, and CDF-FRAP.

- Developed a large-scale database with hundreds of variables using ArcGIS and SAS /Base /SQL.
- Conducted methodological and operational design in SAS; tackled econometric issues regarding empirical modeling such as model selection and multicollinearity.

*Graduate Research Assistant, Oregon State University & USDA-PNW (USDA 1955-455)
10/2007-10/2009*

Optimal Location and Size of Open Space: How Do They Affect Urban Landscapes?

(with Professor JunJie Wu and Dr. Ralph Alig)

- Collaborated with the principle investigators on theoretical models and designed conceptual models used in simulations.
- Executed optimization using non-linear simulations in Mathematica and evaluated critical features of land use (e.g., land price, tax rate, and income mix).
- Performed model validation and sensitivity analysis; finalized results and presented findings at professional conferences.

Graduate Research Assistant, Oregon State University & Sun Grant

07/2006-09/2006

Biofuel Potential in Oregon: Background and Evaluation of Options (with Professor William Jaeger, Professor Thorsten Egelkraut, and Dr. Robin Cross)

- Evaluated policies and incentives with regards to renewable energy at federal, state, and local levels.
- Conducted meta-analysis regarding the cost of biofuel production for corn-ethanol, soybean biodiesel, and cellulosic ethanol.
- Analyzed the industrial cost of producing corn-ethanol and soybean biodiesel from the SEC filings of public companies.
- Tabulated results and presented to the principle investigators and other scholars.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics,
Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon* *10/2006-12/2006*

- AREC 352: Environmental Economics and Policy (Instructor: Professor JunJie Wu)

*Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, Oregon State University,
Corvallis, Oregon* *09/2004-06/2006*

- ECON 424/524: Introduction to Econometrics (Instructor: Professor Carol H. Tremblay)
- ECON 383: Economics of Discrimination (Instructor: Professor Carol H. Tremblay)
- ECON 201: Introduction to Microeconomics (Instructors: Faculty)

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Graduate Research Assistantship, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Oregon State University 2006-current
- Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Department of Economics, Oregon State University 2004-2006
- Scholarship for Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Fundamentals of Spatial Economics Workshop 2007
- L-2 Awards, Department of Economics, Oregon State University 2005
- Graduate Student Award, Xiamen University 2002
- Guang Hua Scholarship, Xiamen University 2001
- Scholarship of the Year, Economics Department, Xiamen University 1997-2000

PUBLICATIONS

- Xu, W. and Wu, J. (Forthcoming) “Amenity-Driven Migration and the Spatial Distribution of Economic Activity”, in Heide, M.V.D. and Heijman, W. (eds), *The Economic Value of Landscapes*, United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis Books.
- Wu, J., Xu, W., and Alig, R. “Optimal Location and Size of Open Space: How Do They Affect Urban Landscapes?” Under review by *Journal of Urban Economics*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Wu, J., Xu, W., and Alig, R. (07/2009) “Optimal Location and Size of Open Space: How Do They Affect Urban Landscapes?”, 2009 AAEA & ACCI joint meeting in Milwaukee, WI.
- Xu, W. and Wu, J. (07/2009) “Wildland Fire Hazard and Urban Development Pattern: Why California Civil Code 1103 Fails to Protect Households from Wildfires”, 2009 AAEA & ACCI joint meeting in Milwaukee, WI.

REFERENCES

Wu, JunJie (Emery Castle Professor and Ph.D. Committee Chair)
200A Ballard Extension Hall
Oregon State University
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Adams, Richard M. (Professor Emeritus and Ph.D. Committee Member)
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Alig, Ralph J. (Research Forester and Collaborator)
USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station
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