

## Ren Mu

Allen Building 1047, 4220 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4220  
Email: [rmu@tamu.edu](mailto:rmu@tamu.edu); Phone: 1.979. 4588024; Fax: 1.979. 8454155

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### APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor, The Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University, September 2013 — present

Assistant Professor, The Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University, September 2007 — August 2013

Consultant Economist, Development Research Group, The World Bank, June 2005 — June 2007; September 2009 — April 2010

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Michigan State University, January 2005 — May 2005

### AFFILIATIONS

Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Germany, April 2012 — present

### EDITORIAL POSITION

Associate Editor, *China Economic Review*

### EDUCATION

Michigan State University	Ph.D. in Economics	2004
Michigan State University	M.S. in Statistics	2002
Nankai University, China	M.A. in Law	1999
Nankai University, China	B.A. in Economics	1996

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied Microeconomics of Development: Migration, Health, Education, Public Investments, and Poverty Reduction.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Forced Off the Farm? The Migration Response to Land Requisition in China,” with Shuang Ma, *World Development* (2020) 132, 104980.

“Village Political Economy, Land Tenure Insecurity, and the Rural to Urban Migration Decision: Evidence from China,” with John Giles, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* (2018) 100-2: 521-544.

- “Pension Coverage for Parents and Educational Investment in Children: Evidence from Urban China,” with Yang Du, *The World Bank Economic Review* (2017) 31-2: 483-503.
- “Public Environmental Concern in China: Determinants and Variations,” with Xinsheng Liu, *Global Environmental Change* (2016) 37: 116-127.
- “Migration and Young Child Nutrition: Evidence from Rural China,” with Alan de Brauw, *Journal of Population Economics* (2015) 28: 631-657.
- “Do Elected Leaders in a Limited Democracy Have Real Power? Evidence from Rural China,” with Xiaobo Zhang, *Journal of Development Economics* (2014) 107: 17-27.
- “Regional Disparities in Self-Reported Health: Evidence from Chinese Older Adults,” *Health Economics* (2014) 23: 529-549.
- “Left Behind to Farm? Women’s Labor Reallocation in Rural China,” with Dominique van de Walle, *Labour Economics* (2011) 18: S83-S97.
- “Migration and the Overweight and Underweight Status of Children in Rural China,” with Alan de Brauw, *Food Policy* (2011) 36: 88-100.
- “Why Does the Great Chinese Famine Affect the Male and Female Survivors Differently? Mortality Selection versus Son Preference,” with Xiaobo Zhang, *Economics and Human Biology* (2011) 9: 92-105.
- “Rural Roads and Poor Area Development in Vietnam,” with Dominique van de Walle, *Journal of Development Studies* (2011) 47(5): 709-734.
- “Are There Lasting Impacts of Aid to Poor Areas? Evidence from Rural China,” with Shaohua Chen and Martin Ravallion, *Journal of Public Economics* (2009) 93: 512–528.
- “Fungibility and ‘Flypaper’ Effects on Project Aid: Micro-evidence for Vietnam,” with Dominique van de Walle, *Journal of Development Economics* (2007) 84: 667–685.
- “Elder Parent Health and the Migration Decision of Adult Children: Evidence from Rural China,” with John Giles, *Demography* (2007) 44(2): 265-288.
- “Income Shocks, Consumption, Wealth, and Human Capital: Evidence from Russia,” *Economic Development and Cultural Change* (2006) 54(4): 857-

#### Non PEER-REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTERS and JOURNAL ARTICLES

- “Aspects of Gender in Famine: Evidence from the Chinese Great Leap Forward Famine,” in Victor Preeky and Vinood B. Patel, editors. *Handbook of Famine, Starvation, and Nutrient Deprivation* Springer-Nature 2018.
- “Impact of Famine During Pregnancy and Infancy on Health in Adulthood,” with Z. Yang, W. Zhao, X. Zhang, Y. Zhai, L. Kong and C. Chen, *Obesity Reviews* (2008) vol.9 (Suppl. 1), 95-99.

“Famine and Overweight in China,” with Zhehui Luo and Xiaobo Zhang, *Review of Agricultural Economics* 28(3) (2006): 296-304.

## **WORKING PAPERS**

“Misconceptions of Relative Income and Perceived Fairness: Evidence from a Randomized Survey Experiment in China”

## **RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**

“Sex-ratio Imbalance and Internal Migration in China,” with Xiaobo Zhang.

“Rural-to-Urban Migration and Public Goods Provision: Evidence from Rural China,” with John Giles.

“Uneven Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic: Post-Lockdown Population Mobility across Chinese Cities,” with Yanyan Liu and Shuang Ma.

“Public Environmental Concern in China 2008-2016,” with Xinsheng Liu.

## **RESEARCH FUNDING**

“Local Governance and Public Goods Provision in Guizhou Province,” with Xiaobo Zhang, International Food Policy Research Institute. \$8,000, 2007-2008.

“The Changing Gender Division of Labor in China,” with Dominique van de Walle, The World Bank. \$50,000, 2008-2009.

“Off-farm Labor Markets and Women in China,” Faculty Research Grants, the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs at the Bush School of Government and Public Service. Texas A&M University. \$2,500, 2008-2009.

“Economics Shocks, Internal Migration and the Roles of Institutions and Markets: Evidence from China and Indonesia,” with John Giles, The World Bank. \$58,000, 2010-2011.

“Land Requisition by Governments and Investment Incentives of Farmers: Evidence from China,” with Yanyan Liu, International Food Policy Research Institute. \$10,400, 2014-2015.

Initial Funding for China Survey II, with Xinsheng Liu and Robert Harmel, the Bush School of Government and Public Service, Institute of Science Technology and Public Policy, Texas A&M University, \$80,000, 2015-2017.

“Refugees, Host Countries, and Policy Responses: Evidence from the Syria Refugee Crisis,” with Silva Hamie and Andrew Natsios, the Center on Conflict and Development and the Bush School, Texas A&M. \$40,000, 2016-2017.

“Rural-to-Urban Migration and the Provision of Local Public Goods: Evidence from Rural China,” with John Giles, the World Bank. \$100,000, 2017-2018.

“Migration and Rural Development in China,” with John Giles, the World Bank.  
\$19,000, 2020.

## **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

The Association of Former Students College-Level Teaching Award, 2017 Texas  
A&M University.

Bush Faculty Excellence Award, 2013 Bush School.

Dudley Seers Memorial Annual Prize for the Best Article in the *Journal of  
Development Studies*, 2011 (co-authored with Dominique van de Walle).

Chow Best Paper Award, Honorable Mention, Chinese Economist Society, 2009.

The RAND Postdoctoral Fellowship for the Study of Aging, 2007-2008 (Declined).

Graduate Student Fellowship, 1999, 2001, 2002, and 2003, Department of  
Economics, Michigan State University.

Thoman Fellowship, 2001-2002, International Study Program, Michigan State  
University.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### MASTER’S LEVEL (TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY)

International Affairs Capstone Project  
Advanced Economic Development  
Economic Development of China  
International Studies Field Trip Seminar  
Fundamentals of Global Economy  
Quantitative Methods I & II

### UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL (MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY)

Microeconomics  
Development Economics

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Reviewer, Chinese Economist Society Annual Conference, 2006.

Discussant, “Property Rights, Firm Financing, and Industrialization in China,”  
American Social Sciences Annual Meetings, San Francisco, January 2009.

Reviewer, International Association of Agricultural Economists Triennial  
Conference, 2009.

Reviewer, Chinese Economist Society Annual Conference, 2009.

Discussant, “Unpaid Care, Labor, and Gender Inequality,” Chinese Economist  
Association Annual Meetings, Nanning, June 2009.

Discussant, “Circumstance and Selection in Early Childhood Health,” American  
Economic Society Annual Meetings, Atlanta, January 2010.

Discussant, “Labor and Human Capital,” American Social Sciences Annual Meetings, Atlanta, January 2010.

Discussant, “The Chinese Labor Market in the Post-Crisis Period: Understanding Informality and Strengthening Social Protection,” The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Economics Forum, Beijing, August 2011.

Invited Participant, WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing) Agenda-setting Research Conference, Cape Town, March 2011.

Discussant, “Healthcare Issues in China,” Chinese Economist Society Annual Meetings, Beijing, June 2011.

Presenter, China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Studies Users’ Training, China Center for Economic Research, Beijing, July 2011.

Discussant, “Property Rights,” Northeast Universities Development Consortium Conference, New Haven, November 2011.

Organizer, “Children’s Health and Education in China,” American Social Sciences Annual Meetings, Chicago, January 2012.

Discussant, “Women’s Work and Social Security,” The 9th Chinese Women Economists International Workshop on Women Economic Empowerment, Peking University, June 2012.

Invited Participant, The 3rd Annual UChicago-Renmin Symposium on Family and Labor Economics, Beijing, June 2012.

Instructor, Applied Econometrics Training Program. Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, July 2012.

Program Committee, China Economics Summer Institute (CESI) 2013, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Chair, Human Capital Studies, Chinese Economist Society Annual Conference, Chengdu, 2013.

Discussant, The 2013 International Conference on China’s Labor Market in an Era of Economic Transitions & Development, Hangzhou, June 2013.

Program Committee, China Economics Summer Institute (CESI) 2014, Tsinghua University.

Discussant, Gender, Inclusive Growth and Care Economy in China, Beijing University, June 2014.

Mentor, Ford Foundation China Women Economists Mentor Program, 2011-2014.

Technical Reviewer, the Development Impact Evaluation in the World Bank 2015.

Discussant, Care Economy, Gender, and Inclusive Growth in China, Beijing University, May 2016.

Organizer and Chair, Labor Force Participation and Retirement, Population Association of American, April 2020 (canceled)