

APPOINTMENTS

Professor
The Bush School of Government & Public Service, Texas A&M University Sept. 2022—present

Associate Professor
The Bush School of Government & Public Service, Texas A&M University Sept. 2013—Aug. 2022

Assistant Professor
The Bush School of Government & Public Service, Texas A&M University Sept. 2007—Aug. 2013

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

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

AFFILIATION

Research Fellow	Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Germany	2012—present
Research Fellow	Institute for Science, Technology, and Public Policy (ISTPP), the Bush School, Texas A&M University	2022—2025

EDITORIAL POSITION

Associate Editor	<i>China Economic Review</i>	2017—present
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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

AWARDS

Robert H. and Judy L. Allen Professorship, Texas A&M University, 2020—present.

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

Bush Faculty Excellence Award, The Bush School, Texas A&M University, 2013.

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

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, Department of Economics, Michigan State University, 1999–2003.

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

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied Microeconomics of Development: migration, health, education, public investments, public opinion.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed

- [16] Ren Mu. 2022. “Perceived relative income, fairness, and the role of government: Evidence from a randomized survey experiment in China.” *China Economic Review*, 73, Article 101784.
- [15] Ma, Shuang and Ren Mu. 2021. “Forced off the farm? The migration response to land requisition in China.” *World Development*, 132, Article 104980.
- [14] Giles, John and Ren Mu. 2018. “Village political economy, land tenure insecurity, and the rural to urban migration decision: Evidence from China.” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 100-2: 521-544.
- [13] Mu, Ren and Yang Du. 2017. “Pension coverage for parents and educational investment in children: Evidence from urban China.” *The World Bank Economic Review*, 31-2: 483-503.
- [12] Liu, Xinsheng and Ren Mu. 2016. “Public environmental concern in China: Determinants and variations.” *Global Environmental Change*, 37: 116-127.
- [11] Mu, Ren and Alan de Brauw. 2015. “Migration and young child nutrition: Evidence from rural China.” *Journal of Population Economics*, 28: 631-657.
- [10] Mu, Ren and Xiaobo Zhang. 2014. “Do elected leaders in a limited democracy have real power? Evidence from rural China.” *Journal of Development Economics*, 107: 17-27.
- [9] Mu, Ren. 2014. “Regional disparities in self-reported health: Evidence from Chinese older adults.” *Health Economics*, 23: 5297-549.
- [8] Mu, Ren and Dominique van de Walle. 2011. “Left behind to farm? Womens labor reallocation in rural China.” *Labour Economics*, 18: S83-S97.
- [7] de Brauw, Alan and Ren Mu. 2011. “Migration and the overweight and underweight status of children in rural China.” *Food Policy*, 36: 88-100.
- [6] Mu, Ren and Xiaobo Zhang. 2011. “Why does the Great Chinese Famine affect the male and female survivors differently? Mortality selection versus son preference.” *Economics and Human Biology*, 9: 92-105.
- [5] Mu, Ren and Dominique van de Walle. 2011. “Rural roads and poor area development in Vietnam.” *Journal of Development Studies*, 47-5: 709-734.

- [4] Chen, Shaohua, Ren Mu and Martin Ravallion. 2009. “Are there lasting impacts of aid to poor areas? evidence from rural China.” *Journal of Public Economics*, 93: 512-528.
- [3] van de Walle, Dominique and Ren Mu. 2007. “Fungibility and ‘flypaper’ effects on project aid: Micro-evidence for Vietnam.” *Journal of Development Economics*, 84: 667-685.
- [2] Giles, John and Ren Mu. 2007. “Elder parent health and the migration decision of adult children: Evidence from rural China.” *Demography*, 44-2: 265-288.
- [1] Mu, Ren. 2006. “Income shocks, consumption, wealth, and human capital: Evidence from Russia.” *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 54-4: 857-892.

Non Peer-Reviewed

- [3] Mu, Ren. 2019. “Aspects of gender in famine: Evidence from the Chinese Great Leap Forward Famine.” in *Handbook of Famine, Starvation, and Nutrient Deprivation: From Biology to Policy*, V. R. Preedy and V. B. Patel, Eds., Springer International Publishing. 67-76.
- [2] Yang, Z., W. Zhao, X. Zhang, R. Mu, Y. Zhai, L. Kong, and C. Chen. 2008. “Impact of famine during pregnancy and infancy on health in adulthood.” in *Obesity Reviews*, 9-S1: 95-99.
- [1] Luo, Zhehui, Ren Mu and Xiaobo Zhang. 2006. “Famine and overweight in China.” in *Review of Agricultural Economics*, 28-3: 296-304.

WORKING PAPERS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

J. Giles and R. Mu, “Migration, growth and poverty reduction in Chinas villages: A retrospective and discussion of future challenges”, 2021.

Y. Liu, S. Ma, and R. Mu, “Uneven recovery from the covid-19 pandemic: Post-lockdown human mobility across chinese cities”, 2021.

R. Mu, “Split families in rural China: A Chinese endeavor for prosperity”.

R. Mu and X. Liu, “Perceived return to college education by ethnicity in China”.

J. Giles and R. Mu, “Rural-to-urban migration and public goods provision in China”.

RESEARCH FUNDING

“Split Families in Rural China,” Dean's Excellence Fund, The Bush School, Texas A&M University, \$5,000, 2020-2022.

“Selected Aspects of Poverty Reduction in China,” with John Giles, The World Bank, \$19,050, 2020.

“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

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

“The Impact of the 2015 Earthquakes on Nepal Households,” The Center on Conflict & Development, Texas A&M University, \$13,825, 2016.

China Survey II, with Xinsheng Liu and Robert Harmel, The Bush School, Texas A&M University, \$80,000, 2015–2017.

“Determinants of Youth Employment in Ghana,” The Center on Conflict & Development, Texas A&M University, \$5,000, 2015.

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

“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.

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

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

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

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

“Forced off the Farm? The Migration Response to Land Requisition in China,” with Shuang Ma, *Pacific Conference for Development Economics*, University of Southern California (March 2019).

“Public Environmental Concerns in China,” with Xinsheng Liu, *The 2015 TJ Shi Forum on Empirical Social Sciences Research at Southwest Jiaotong University*. Chengdu, China (June 2015).

“Sex-ratio Imbalance and Internal Migration in China,” with Xiaobo Zhang and Dandan Zhang, *Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings*, Tampa (November 2013).

“Coverage for Parents and Educational Investment on Children,” with Yang Du, *Chinese Economist Society Annual Meetings*, Chengdu, China (June 2013); *Population Association of America Annual Meetings*, New Orleans (April 2013); *The 9th Chinese Women Economist International Workshop on Women Empowerment*, Beijing, China (June 2012).

“Unattended but not Undernourished: the Left-behind Children in China,” with Alan de Brauw, *Population Association of America Annual Meetings*, New Orleans, (April 2013); *Asian Studies Forum*, Texas A& M University (January 2012); *American Social Sciences Annual Meetings*, Chicago (January 2012).

“Village Political Economy, Land Tenure Insecurity, and Rural to Urban Migration in China,” with John Giles, *Northeast Universities Development Consortium Conference*, Yale University (November 2011); *The School of Economics and Management*, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China (June 2011).

“Women in Chinese Urban Labor Market,” *Technical Workshop on Informal Employment, Poverty, and Growth in India and China*, Institute for Human Development, New Delhi, India (April 2011).

“Elected versus Appointed Grassroots Leaders: Evidence from Rural China,” with Xiaobo Zhang, *Chinese Economics Summer Institute*, Tshinghua University, Beijing, China (July 2011); *American Social Sciences Annual Meetings*, Denver (January 2011); *The Center of Public Policy*, University of Houston (April, 2010).

“Regional Disparities in Self-reported Health among the Elderly: Evidence from Rural China,” *Chinese Economist Society Annual Meetings*, Beijing, China (June 2011); *Population Association of America Annual Meetings*, Washington DC (April 2011).

“Migration and the Overweight and Underweight Status of Children in Rural China,” with Alan de Brauw, *Food and Agricultural Organization Workshop on Assessing the Impact of Migration on Nutrition and Food Security*, Rome, Italy (June 2009).

“Left Behind to Farm? Womens Labor Allocation in Rural China,” with Dominique van de Walle *Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings*, Atlanta (November 2010); *The 3rd International Conference on Migration & Development*, Paris, France (September 2010); *Population Association of America Annual Meetings*, Dallas (April 2010); *Chinese Economist Society Annual Meetings*, Nanning, China (June 2009).

“Altruism and Exchange Motive in Education Investment on Children: Evidence from Urban China,” with Yang Du, *American Economic Association Annual Meetings*, Atlanta (January 2010).

“Gender Dimensions of Famine Survival: Mortality Selection or Son Preference,” with Xiaobo Zhang, *American Economic Association Annual Meetings*, Atlanta (January 2010); *Population Association of America Annual Meetings*, New Orleans (April, 2008).

“Are There Lasting Impacts of Aid to Poor Areas? Evidence from Rural China,” with Shaohua Chen and Martin Ravallion, *International Food Policy Research Institute*, Washington DC (February 2007); *Texas A&M University* (February 2007); *Michigan State University* (January 2007); *American Economic Association Annual Meetings* (January 2007).

“Elder Parent Health and the Migration Decision of Adult Children: Evidence from Rural China,” with John Giles, *Northeast Universities Development Consortium Conference*, Brown University, October 2005.

“Income Shocks, Consumption, Wealth, and Human Capital: Evidence from Russia,” *Northeast Universities Development Consortium Conference*, Brown University (October 2005).

COURSES TAUGHT

International Affairs Capstone Project
Economic Development of China
Fundamentals of Global Economy
Quantitative Methods II

Advanced Economic Development
International Studies Field Trip Seminar
Quantitative Methods I

PHD ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Mingsi Song	Department of Political Science	2022–present
Chen Shen	Department of Political Science	2022–present
Wan Huang	Department of Sociology	2020–present
Raisa Sara	Department of Economics	2018–present
Xiongfei Guo	Department of Economics	2017–2020
Xirong Chen	Department of Economics	2015–2018
Chung-pei Pien	Department of Sociology	2014–2018
Song Zhou	Department of Agricultural Economics	2014–2018
Bharani Nagarathnam	Department of Human Resource Development	2012–2017
Gonzalo Sánchez	Department of Economics	2012–2015
Clayton Webb	Department of Political Science	2015
Katherine Bryant	Department of Political Science	2015
Noelia R. Páez	Department of Economics	2010

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University Institutional Review Board (IRB) (2019–present)

Bush School Research Committee (2019–present)

Bush School Graduate Instruction Committee (2013–present)

Ad Hoc Committee on Voting Issues (Department of International Affairs, 2019-2021)

Faculty Search Committees (Economist, 2022; Department Chair, 2021; National Security and Diplomacy, 2018-2019; International Non-government Organization, 2015-2016; International Development, 2014-2015; Department Chair, 2013-2014; International Development, 2012; Non-government Organization, 2011; Public Policy Analysis, 2011; International Institutions, 2007)

University Task Force on Associate Professors (2020)

Bush School Junior Faculty Development and Retention Committee for Strategic Planning (2019)

Third Year or Tenure Review Subcommittee (Department of International Affairs, 2015-2019)

Methods Committee (Department of International Affairs, 2012, 2019)

Bush School Online Instructor Review Committee (2008, 2009, 2011–2019)

Curriculum Committee (Department of International Affairs, 2011, 2012, 2017)

The Association of Former Students (AFS) Distinguished Achievement Committee (2016)

Master's Thesis Committee (Department of Economics, 2013-2016)

Student Admissions Committee (Department of International Affairs, 2008–2010, 2012–2014, 2016)

University Academic Civil Rights Investigation Committee (2012-2014)

By-laws Committee (Department of International Affairs, 2014)

Module/Concentration Committee (Master Program in International Affairs, 2008)

REFEREE SERVICE

Aging & Society, American Economic Review, Contemporary Economic Policy, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, American Political Science Review, Demography, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economics of Education Review, Economics and Human Biology, Economic Inquiry, Economic Letters, Economics of Transition, Education Economics, Food Policy, Health Economics, Journal of African Economics, Journal of Agricultural Economics, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Development Effectiveness, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Economic Development, Journal of Economics of Aging, Journal of Feminist Economics, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Population Economics, Labour Economics, National Science Foundation, Oxford University Press, Pacific Economic Review, Population Research and Policy Review, Population Studies, Research on Aging, Review of Development Economics, Review of Economics of the Household, Review of Income and Wealth, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Science, Social Science & Medicine, World Bank Economic Review, World Development.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Organizer and Chair, Labor Force Participation and Retirement, Population Association of America, April 2020 (Canceled due to COVID-19).

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

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

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

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

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

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

Discussant, The International Conference on Chinas Labor Market in an Era of Economic Transitions & Development, Hangzhou, 2013.

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

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

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

Discussant, Womens Work and Social Security, The 9th Chinese Women Economists International Workshop Women Economic Empowerment, Peking University, 2012.

Organizer, Childrens Health and Education in China, American Economic Association Meetings, Chicago, 2012.

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

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

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

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

Discussant, The Chinese Labor Market in the Post-Crisis Period, The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Economics Forum, Beijing, 2011.

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

Discussant, Circumstance and Selection in Early Childhood Health, American Economic Association Annual Meetings, Atlanta, 2010.

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

Reviewer, Chinese Economist Society Annual Conference, 2009.

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

Discussant, Property Rights, Firm Financing, and Industrialization in China, American Economic Association Annual Meetings, San Francisco, 2009.

Reviewer, Chinese Economist Society Annual Conference, 2006.