

Yao Wang

OFFICE INFORMATION

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SYRACUSE PLACEMENT OFFICER

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DOCTORAL STUDIES

Syracuse University
PhD, Economics, Expected completion May 2022
DISSERTATION:
“Three Essays on Economic Geography and Development Economics”

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE AND REFERENCES

Alexander D. Rothenberg (Primary)
Assistant Professor of Economics
Syracuse University
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Devashish Mitra
Professor of Economics
Syracuse University
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Stuart S. Rosenthal
Professor of Economics
Syracuse University
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EDUCATION

Syracuse University	2017-Present
Ph.D. in Economics	
Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, China	2012-2016
B.A. in Economics	

FIELDS

Primary Field: Urban Economics
Secondary Fields: International Trade and Development Economics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Cities in Developing Countries (undergrad, Syracuse University)	2019, 2021
Teaching Assistant to Prof. Alexander D. Rothenberg	
Economics of Globalization (undergrad, Syracuse University)	2017-2018
Teaching Assistant to Prof. Devashish Mitra	
Economics Ideas and Issues (undergrad, Syracuse University)	2018
Teaching Assistant to Prof. Bhavneet Walia	

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	Research Assistant to Prof. Alexander D. Rothenberg, Syracuse University	2019-2021
	Graduate Associate, Center for Policy Research, Syracuse University	2019-Present
AWARDS	Research Excellence Doctoral Funding Research Assistantship, CPR, Syracuse University	2019-2021
	Graduate Assistantship, Syracuse University	2017-2019
	Maxwell School Summer Fellowship, Syracuse University	2017-2021
CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS	Syracuse University (Labor Group)	2018
	Syracuse University (Graduate Student Workshop)	2021
CONFERENCES ATTENDED	Syracuse University Conference on Urban Economics	2021
	NY Camp Econometrics	2018, 2019
PERSONAL	China Citizenship	
LANGUAGE	Mandarin (Native), English (Fluent)	
SKILL	Stata, Python, LaTeX, MATLAB, QGIS, ArcGIS	
RESEARCH PAPERS	<p>“Linguistic Distance, Internal Migration and Welfare: Evidence from Indonesia” (Job Market Paper)</p> <p>This paper quantifies the effects of cultural barriers on internal migration and welfare by exploiting rich ethnolinguistic data in Indonesia and a spatial equilibrium framework. I estimate internal migration gravity using linguistic distances as a proxy for cultural barriers and instrument for current linguistic differences using data from the 1930 colonial census. I find inverted U-shaped effects of linguistic distance on migration. Longer linguistic distance encourages migration for linguistically close location pairs, but the pattern inverts as linguistic distance grows. The effects are more prominent for unskilled and older populations. To quantify welfare and distributional implications of linguistic barriers, I further develop a quantitative spatial model with heterogeneous skill groups, incorporating linguistic distance as migration and trade barriers. I find that a simulated reduction in linguistic distances by extrapolating the historical migration trend generates smaller welfare gains but improve equity more than a similar reduction in geographic barriers.</p>	

“Urban Sprawl and Social Capital: Evidence from Indonesian Cities”

(with Andrea Civelli, Arya Gaduh, and Alexander Rothenberg)

*Revise and Resubmit, **Economic Journal***

We use detailed data from cities in Indonesia to study the relationship between urban sprawl and social capital. For identification, we combine instruments for density with controls for community averages of observed characteristics, which control for sorting on observables and unobservables. We find that lower density increases trust in neighbors and community participation in urban areas of Indonesia, but it is also associated with lower interethnic tolerance. Heterogeneity analysis suggests that these findings are not explained by differential opportunity costs, but are instead reflective of social forces, including overall ethnic diversity and crime rates.

**RESEARCH
IN PROGRESS**

“The Impact of Public Transit on Congestion and Pollution: Evidence from Jakarta’s MRT”

(with Prottoy Akbar, Arya Gaduh, and Alexander Rothenberg)

Automobile travel in urban areas is associated with several negative externalities, including traffic congestion and pollution. Public transit systems provide transport alternatives that potentially reduce those negative externalities. We use several data sources to estimate how the opening of Jakarta's MRT in April 2019 improved traffic and air quality for city residents. To estimate how the MRT system alleviated congestion, we use high frequency data from Google Maps to compare changes in travel times for routes lying close to the MRT corridor to changes in travel times for planned but unbuilt MRT routes. We use a similar strategy to estimate the impact of the MRT system on pollution using remotely sensed pollution measures from the European Space Agency's Sentinel-5 Precursor (S5P) satellite. Finally, we compare our estimates of the benefits of reduced congestion and improved air quality to the costs of building and operating the MRT system.

“Steering and Spatial Mismatch” (with Tianyun Zhu)

In 1968, John Kain proposed the Spatial Mismatch Hypothesis: the high unemployment rate in central cities among blacks might be due to the suburbanization of jobs combined with housing discrimination keeping blacks from relocating accordingly. We use in-person housing audit study, Housing Discrimination Study 2012, combined with rich job access data to directly test the role played by housing discrimination in the Spatial Mismatch Hypothesis. We find suggestive evidence for discriminatory steering in the housing market that denies Hispanics' access to jobs but no decisive evidence for other minorities.