

Lin Yang

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Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Georgia Institute of Technology, 2020-Present

Advisors: Olga Shemyakina & Robert Gonzalez

Dissertation: "Infrastructure, Conflict and the Health Impacts in South Asia"

M.S. in Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2018-2020

B.A in English (Finance and Economics Track), Central University of Finance and Economics, 2014-2018

Research Interests

Applied Microeconomics, Development Economics, Environmental Economics, Health, Armed Conflict

Research

Job Market Paper

"Foreign Aid and Conflict: Evidence from Chinese Belt and Road Initiative in Pakistan"

Abstract: Relationship between aid and conflict has been the subject of extensive research, but there is conflicting evidence on the direction of this relationship. Most of research has focused on aid from developed countries and the effect of aid from China to developing countries has been less explored. Particularly, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects in Pakistan have a distinct type of aid delivery in the form of large-scale infrastructure projects under cooperation and protection from Pakistan army troops. This paper investigates the effects of infrastructure aid on political violence focusing on the transportation infrastructure projects in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Using statistical estimators based on panel data for political violence in Pakistan between 2010 and 2020 at district level, I find that the number of incidents decreased in CPEC districts, both during and after CPEC projects' construction. I also explore channel through which aid impacts conflict and find that large-scale and government-supported transportation infrastructure projects in the form of collaboration bring negative effects on conflict levels.

Working Papers

"Violent Conflict and Demand for Healthcare in Afghanistan" (with Olga Shemyakina)

"Cell Phone Access and Insurgent Violence: Evidence from a Radio Propagation Model in Afghanistan" (with Ryan Ellis and Robert Gonzalez)

Works in Progress

"Relationship Between Transport Infrastructure, Economic Growth and Transport Emissions in Pakistan"

"The Health Costs of Infrastructure Energy Projects in Pakistan"

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record

Principles of Macroeconomics (Undergraduate): Spring 2024

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Cost-Benefit Analysis (Graduate): Summer 2022

Principles of Macroeconomics (Undergraduate): Summer 2022

Industrial Organization (Undergraduate and Graduate): Spring 2022

Economic Forecasting (Undergraduate): Fall 2021

Econometric Analysis (Undergraduate): Fall 2021

Econometrics I (Graduate): Fall 2023

Econometrics I (PhD): Fall 2021, Fall 2023

Data Analytics and Security (Graduate): Spring 2021, Summer 2021

Previous Employment

Graduate Research Assistant, "Armed Conflict and Health" for Professor Olga Shemyakina , Georgia Tech, Fall 2022- Spring 2023

Grader/Reader, UW-Madison, Spring 2020

Professional Activities

Conference and Workshop Presentations (Including Scheduled)

South East Exchange of Development Studies (SEEDS) Conference, April 2024, Atlanta, GA

Development Economics in the South Workshop (DevSouth), April 2024, Knoxville, TN

Atlanta Workshop on Public Policy and Child Well-Being (PPCW), March 2024, Atlanta, GA

Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Nov 2023, New Orleans, LA

Carolina Region Empirical Economics Day (CREED), Oct 2023, Columbia, SC

Western Economic Association International Conference, July 2023, San Diego, CA

South East Exchange of Development Studies (SEEDS) Conference, April 2023, Atlanta, GA

Referee Service

China Economic Review

Selected Honors and Awards

3rd-Year Paper Award of School of Economics (\$500), Georgia Institute of Technology, 2023

Tech to Teaching Certificate, Georgia Institute of Technology, 2022

Excellent Undergraduate in Beijing, Central University of Finance and Economics, 2018

First Prize Scholarship, Central University of Finance and Economics, 2017, 2018

Other

Skills: Python (Machine Learning), **R**, MATLAB, STATA, ArcGIS Pro, LATEX

Language: English (Fluent), Mandarin (Native)

Citizenship: China