

Zheng Tian

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The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Industry agglomeration, agricultural economics, innovation, applied (spatial) econometrics, the input-output model, migration, and food policy.

EDUCATION

West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia, USA

Ph.D. in Economics. 2008 - 2014
Dissertation: Essays on Industry Agglomeration and Input-Output Linkages.
Advisor: Brian Cushing

Peking University, Beijing, China

M.A. in Economics 2002 - 2004

Peking University, Beijing, China

B.A. in Economics 1998 - 2002

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, USA

Postdoctoral Scholar October, 2017 - present

Research projects:

- The Role of Innovation in Rural Firm Emergence and Vitality, funded by U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA). (Role: researcher with the Special Sworn Status)
- Creating an Effective Support System for Small and Medium-Sized Farm Operators to Succeed in Agritourism, funded by USDA NIFA . (Role: researcher)
- Twitter/Google Trends Analysis of Food Security Under COVID-19, funded by the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences Institute for Sustainable Agricultural, Food and Environmental Science. (Role: researcher)
- Industry Clusters and the Location of Agriculture: Establishing a Theoretical Base for Economic Development Practice, funded by USDA NIFA. (Role: researcher)
- Regional Economic Development as a New Theoretical Framework, funded by EDA, US Department of Commerce. (Role: researcher)

Capital University of Economics and Business, Beijing, China

Assistant Professor September, 2014 - 2017

Undergraduate courses: Introduction to Econometrics, Financial Data Analysis

Graduate course: Frontier in Applied Economics

West Virginia University, Regional Research Institute, Morgantown, WV, USA

Visiting Research Scholar September, 2015 - 2017

Graduate Research Assistant 2009 - 2014

West Virginia University, Department of Economics, Morgantown, WV, USA

Instructor

summers in 2012 and 2013

Courses: Principles of Microeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics

China Economic Information Network, Beijing, China

Economic Analyst

2005 – 2008

Responsibilities: compiling regional economic data, writing regional economic reports, editing an editorial targeted for mayors of Chinese cities, and designing a project of establishing the Chinese Regional Economic and Social Development Monitoring And Evaluation System.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Barry M. Moriarty Award for the Student Paper Competition at the Southern Regional Science Association Conference 2014
- M. Jarvin Emerson Award for the Student Paper Competition at the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association Conference 2012
- Jon Vilasuso Advanced Doctoral Student Award, Department of Economics, WVU 2012
- Graduate Assistantship, Department of Economics, WVU 2008–2014
- The Award for Distinguished Student, School of Economics, Peking University 2001

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Academic Journal Articles

1. **Tian, Z.**, S. Goetz, and C. Schmidt. (2021) The Role of Community Food Services in Reducing U.S. Food Insufficiency in the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, forthcoming.
2. Schmidt, C., S. Goetz, and **Z. Tian**. (2021). Female Farmers in the United States: Research Needs and Policy Questions. *Food Policy*, forthcoming.
3. Schmidt, C., S. Goetz, S. Rocker, and **Z. Tian**. (2020). Google Searches Reveal Changing Consumer Food Sourcing in the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 9(3): 1–8.
4. **Tian, Z.**, S. Goetz, and C. French. (2020). Problem of Low 2020 Census Participation Will Vary with Sociodemographic Factors and Distance from Metro Areas. *Choices: Quarter 4*.
5. **Tian, Z.**, P. Gottlieb, and S. Goetz. (2020). Measuring Industry Co-Agglomeration Across County Borders. *Spatial Economic Analysis*, 15(1): 92-113.
6. Tian, M., **Z. Tian**, and W. Sun. (2018). The Impacts of City-Specific Factors on Social Integration of Chinese Migrant Workers: A Study Using Multilevel Modeling. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 41(3): 324-337.
7. Tian, M., **Z. Tian**, and B. Cushing. (2016). Inter-City Migration in China: A Recurrent-Event Duration Analysis of Repeat Migration. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, 9(3): 551-569.
8. **Tian, Z.** (2013). Measuring Agglomeration Using the Standardized Location Quotient with A Bootstrap Method. *Journal of Regional Analysis & Policy*, 43(2): 186-197

Reports, technical documents, and other publications

1. **Tian, Z.** and S. Goetz. (2021) More Americans couldn't get enough to eat in 2020 – a change that hit the middle class hardest. *The Conversation*. Available at <https://theconversation.com/more-americans-couldnt-get-enough-to-eat-in-2020-a-change-that-hit-the-middle-class-hardest-167853>.

2. Goetz, S., **Z. Tian**, C. Schmidt, and Y. Pan. (2021) Pennsylvania Food Insufficiency Reached New High at the End of 2020. NERC RD Covid-19 Data Report 21-01. Pennsylvania State University.
3. **Tian, Z.** and S. Goetz. (2020) Nonmetro COVID-19 Case Growth Higher in Metro-Adjacent Counties, but Case-Fatality Ratio is Lower so Far. NERC RD COVID-19 Issues Brief No. 2020-8. Pennsylvania State University.
4. **Tian, Z.** and S. Goetz. (2020) Google Searches Predict Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims. NERC RD COVID-19 Issues Brief No. 2020-5. Pennsylvania State University.
5. Goetz, S., **Z. Tian**, C. Schmidt, and D. Meadowcroft. (2020) Rural COVID-19 Cases Lag Urban Areas but Are Growing Much More Rapidly. NERC RD COVID-19 Issues Brief No. 2020-3. Pennsylvania State University.
6. **Tian, Z.**, M. Kahsai, and R. Jackson. (2014). Technical Document for Price Adjustment. Working Papers Technical Document 2014-0, Regional Research Institute, West Virginia University, revised Sep 2014.

WORKING PAPERS

- Spatial Correlation in Census Responses, Voting, Labor Force Participation, and Vaccination: A Spatial SUR Analysis, coauthored with S. Goetz. (In progress)
- The Impact of Female-Operated Farms on U.S. Farm Viability Over Time, coauthored with S. Goetz and C. Schmidt. (In progress)
- U.S. Farm Size Distribution and Local Economic Development, coauthored with S. Goetz and C. Schmidt. (In progress)
- Food Insufficiency and Twitter Emotions During a Pandemic, coauthored with S. Goetz, C. Heaton, M. Imran, et al. (Submitted)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- The 68th North American Meeting of the Regional Science Association International, Denver, CO, 2021. Presented paper: Spatial Variation in Census Responses, Voting Behavior, and Labor Participation: A Spatial SUR Analysis, coauthored with S. Goetz.
- The 60th Southern Regional Science Association Annual Meeting, Virtual Conference, 2021. Presented papers: (1) Food Insufficiency by Income Class in the COVID Pandemic and the Mitigating Effect of Community Food Services in the U.S, coauthored with S. Goetz and C. Schmidt; (2) The Impact of Female-Operated Farms on U.S. Farm Viability Over Time, coauthored with S. Goetz and C. Schmidt.
- The 67th North American Meeting of the Regional Science Association International, Virtual Conference, 2020. Presented papers: Use Google Trends to Predict Initial Claims of Unemployment Insurance During the COVID-19 Pandemic, coauthored with S. Goetz.
- The 66th North American Meeting of the Regional Science Association International, Pittsburgh, PA, 2019. Presented papers: (1) Detecting Agricultural Clusters with the Spatial-IO Location Quotient, coauthored with P. Gottlieb, E. Dobis, A. Hira, N. Reid, and S. Goetz. (2) U.S. Farm Size Distribution and Local Economic Growth, coauthored with S. Goetz.
- The 58th Southern Regional Science Association Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA, 2019. Presented paper: The Effect of Federal and State Funding on College Students' Earnings: A Multilevel Modeling, coauthored with S. Goetz.
- The 58th Western Regional Science Association Annual Meeting, Napa, CA, 2019. Presented paper: The trends in farm and nonfarm employment in the U.S.: A granger causality study with nonstationary panels, coauthored with S. Goetz.
- The 65th North American Meeting of the Regional Science Association International, San Antonio, TX, 2018. Presented paper: Industry agglomeration and employment growth: A quantile regression analysis, coauthored with S. Goetz.

- Regional Studies Association Global Conference in China, Beijing, 2018. Presented paper: Measuring Industry Co-Agglomeration Across County Borders, coauthored with S. Goetz.
- The 57th Southern Regional Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, 2018. Presented paper: (1) Predicting State-Level Gross Job Gains and Losses with Google Trends Data, coauthored with J. Bollen, S. Goetz, and T. Slaper; (2) Measuring Industry Co-Agglomeration Across County Borders, coauthored with S. Goetz.
- The 63rd North American Meeting of the Regional Science Association International, Minneapolis, MN, 2016. Presented paper: Are Chinese Rural Migrants Willing to Convert to Urban Hukou? A Multilevel Model Study, coauthored with M. Tian.
- The 62nd North American Meeting of the Regional Science Association International, Portland, OR, 2015. Presented paper: Inter-city Movements of Migrant Workers in China: the Duration of Stay and Settlement Intentions in the Host Cities, coauthored with M. Tian and B. Cushing.
- The 53rd Southern Regional Science Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, 2014. Presented paper: Exploring the Space-Industry Filter in Regional Industry Models Zheng Tian. Winner of the Barry M. Moriarty Award.
- The 60th North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, Atlanta, GA, 2013. Presented paper: Spatial Pseudo-Panel Data Modeling of Industry Employment Using a Space-Industry Filter.
- The 52nd Southern Regional Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 2013. Presented paper: Testing the Role of Intermediate Demand in Determining Industrial Agglomeration with Spatial Econometrics and the Input-Output Model.
- The 43rd Annual Conference of the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association, Bloomington, MN, 2012. Presented paper: Measuring Agglomeration Using the Standardized Location Quotient with a Bootstrap Method.

COMPUTER SKILLS

- Programming Languages: R, Python, Matlab.
- Statistical Packages: Stata, and Eviews.
- Applications: Emacs, L^AT_EX, Git/Github.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Serving as referees for Regional Statistics; Review of Regional Studies; Journal of Regional Analysis & Policy; SN Business & Economics; Spatial Economic Analysis; Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy; International Regional Science Review; Urban Studies; Regional Science, Policy and Practice.