

XIAO WANG

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RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Primary field: Environmental Economics

Secondary fields: Industrial Organization, Econometrics

EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

August 2014 - May 2019(expected)

Ph.D. Agricultural and Applied Economics

DISSERTATION: Location Choice of Toxic Releasing Facilities after the TRI Information Disclosure: Implications for Environmental Injustice

North Carolina State University

August 2012 - May 2014

M.A. Economics

Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications

Sep 2008 - June 2012

B.A. Accounting

WORKING PAPERS

Wang, Xiao, G. Deltas, M. Khanna, X. Bi, “Environmental Disclosure Programs, Community Pressure and Spatial Redistribution of Pollution: Relocation of Toxic Releasing Facilities After the TRI”
SSRN: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3264740

Wang, Xiao, G. Deltas, M. Khanna, X. Bi, “Effect of Voluntary Relocation on the Environmental Performance of Toxic Releasing Facilities”

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Location Choice of Entering Toxic Releasing Facilities and the Socio-Economic Characteristics of Community: Environmental Injustice at the Micro Scale”, with G. Deltas, M. Khanna, X. Bi

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

“Environmental Disclosure Programs, Community Pressure and Spatial Redistribution of Pollution: Relocation of Toxic-Releasing Facilities After the TRI”

- AAEA Annual Meeting, 2017, Chicago.
- Association of Environmental and Resource Economics Annual Meeting, 2017, Pittsburgh.
- European Association of Environmental and Resource Econ., 2017, Greece (Co-author presented)
- Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop, 2018, Urbana

“Effect of Voluntary Relocation on Environmental Performance of Toxic Facilities in the US”

- program of Environmental and Resource Economics Seminar, 2016, Univ. of Illinois
- World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economics, 2018, Sweden (Co-author presented)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Research Assistant, Department of ACE, U of Illinois** 2015 - Present
Examine economic and environmental effect of the locating and polluting behavior of the US toxic-releasing plants. Guided by Prof. M. Khanna and Prof. G. Deltas.
- Research Assistant, Energy Bioscience Institute, U of Illinois** 2014 - 2016
Building economic models to evaluate cost efficiency of main bioenergy crops. Work with M. Khanna.
- Research Assistant, Department of ARE, North Carolina State U** 2013 - 2014
The Active Investment Efficiency of the State Pension Fund of North Carolina. Construct passive benchmark and evaluate financial efficiency of NC pension fund. Work with Prof. Michael Walden.
- Research Intern, Environmental Policy Research Center, Tsinghua U** Summer 2014
Manage data, construct models and evaluate impact of atmosphere policies on air quality in Beijing. Work with Prof. Miao Chang.
- Teaching Assistant, Department of ACE, U of Illinois** Fall 2017
ACE 210: Environmental Economics. Taught weekly sessions.
- Academic Tutorial, Academic Support Program for Student Athletes, NCSU** 2013 - 2014
Economics, Advanced Statistics, Calculus. Held discussion sessions every two days.

HONORS

- ACES Graduate College Conference Travel Award, University of Illinois, 2017
Dorothy Fay Dunn and Leah Dunn Linse Fellowship, University of Illinois, 2014
National Scholarship of China, 2009

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

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ABSTRACT OF SELECTED PAPERS

Environmental Disclosure Programs, Community Pressure and the Spatial Redistribution of Pollution: The Relocation of Toxic Releasing Facilities After the TRI

(Job Market Paper)

This paper analyzes the effects of community pressure induced by the public disclosure of toxic emissions information from the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) program on the relocation of toxic releasing facilities. We find that, following the first TRI disclosure, toxic facilities are more likely to relocate from communities with high population density, high income, and high educational attainment, and into communities with lower population density, income, and educational attainment. We also find evidence that small facilities grow faster after relocating and as a result also emit more toxic pollutants in the socio-economic disadvantaged communities. Therefore, the relocation of toxic polluters has contributed to a worsening of environmental injustice following the public release of emissions information.

Effect of Voluntary Relocation on Environmental Performance of Toxic Facilities

This paper uses a data-driven methodology - the synthetic control approach - to examine the causal effect of voluntary relocation on the environmental performance of manufacturing facilities under the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) regulation. For each relocated facility, we compute a counterfactual unit that closely imitates it in terms of the pre-treatment outcome performance, internal characteristics and the characteristics of its originally located community; we then obtain the causal treatment effect of relocation on the facility by comparing its post-treatment outcome trajectory with that of the synthetic control. We find a significant positive average treatment effect of relocation on the growth of small facilities in toxic emissions and employment level in the long term. The effect is larger on the facilities moving into communities with lower income, population, and percent of voting for democrats.

The Location Choice of Entering Toxic Polluters and Socio-economic Characteristics - Environmental Injustice at the Micro-scale

This paper develops a micro-scale discrete choice framework and carefully examines the direct impact of community socio-economic characteristics on the entering of toxic releasing facilities. The model focuses on explaining the location choice of facilities in a local geographic scale within several miles of the facilities' final location choices. This reduces the risk of omitted variable bias arising from unobserved heterogeneity in choice alternatives appeared in existing studies, and also accords with new evidence in the literature about the scale in which community pressure affects the behavior of toxic facilities. We find that facilities in different sizes or subsidiary status have a homogeneous preference on community characteristics: they prefer entering communities with low population density, low income, and low education attainment. We also find an insignificant effect of communities' racial composition, which shows no evidence of racial prejudice of entrepreneurs in deciding the location of toxic facilities.