

## YU WANG

PHD CANDIDATE, DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

### Contact Information

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### Education

Ph.D. Student, Applied Economics 2015 - ...  
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

M.A., Agricultural Economics 2012 - 2015  
China Center for Agricultural Policy, Chinese Academy of Sciences (now at Peking University)

B.A., International Economics 2008 - 2012  
China Agricultural University

### Peer-Reviewed Publication

“Local Governance and the Quality of Local Infrastructure: Evidence from Village Road Projects in Rural China.”, *Journal of Public Economics*, 152 (August): 119-132.  
Ho Lun Wong, **Yu Wang**, Renfu Luo, Linxiu Zhang and Scott Rozelle, 2017.

### Job Market Paper

“Local Direct Elections, Local Information and Meritocratic Selection.”  
**Yu Wang** and Renfu Luo.

### Working Paper

“Lagged Variables as Instruments.”  
**Yu Wang** and Marc F. Bellemare.

### Work in Progress

“Spatially Lagged Variables as Instruments: Spatially Local Average Treatment Effects (SLATE) in Estimation.”  
**Yu Wang**.

“Welfare Effects of Meritocratic Selection: Fussy Preferences and Local Information.”  
**Yu Wang** and Renfu Luo.

### **Teaching**

Instructor  
MATLAB Camp (graduate) Summer 2019  
Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota

Instructor  
Math Camp (graduate) Summer 2018  
Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota

Teaching Assistant  
APEC 3002: Managerial Economics (undergraduate) Fall 2017  
Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota

### **Graduate Mentoring**

Mentoring four Ph.D. students and two master students  
Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota

### **Workshops on Learning**

Guest Speaker  
“How to Effectively Learn Undergraduate Microeconomics and Macroeconomics”, 2009, 2011  
College of Economics and Management, China Agricultural University

### **Teaching Training (courses in University of Minnesota)**

GRAD 5105: Practicum in University Teaching for Nonnative English Speakers  
GRAD 8101: Teaching in Higher Education

### **Research**

Research Assistant January 2018 - ...  
Minnesota Population Center (MPC), University of Minnesota  
Tasks: Integrating and harmonizing global census data sets  
PI: Tracy Kugler

Research Assistant May 2017 - August 2017  
Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota  
Tasks: Research in econometric theory  
PI: Marc F. Bellemare

Research Assistant August 2016 - January 2017  
Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota  
Tasks: Research in behavioral economics and consumption in the U.S.  
PI: Chengyan Yue

Research Assistant      September 2015 - May 2016  
Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota  
Tasks: Research in labor and development economics in the Middle East  
PI: Ragui Assaad

Research Assistant      May 2013 - July 2015  
Rural Education Action Program (REAP)  
Stanford University and Chinese Academy of Sciences  
Tasks: Fieldwork and Research in development economics, education and health in rural China  
PI: Scott Rozelle

### **Field Research**

Research Assistant      May 2013 - July 2015  
Surveys and Randomized Controlled Trials (RCT) on development, education and health in rural China  
Rural Education Action Program (REAP)  
Stanford University and Chinese Academy of Sciences  
PI: Scott Rozelle

Principal Investigator      October 2009 - May 2011  
Surveys and research on rural-urban migration in China  
“National Undergraduate Research Project”, funded by Ministry of Education of China

### **Grants, Scholarships and Honors**

“National Undergraduate Research Project” (by Ministry of Education of China), 2009 - 2011

University President Scholarship (by China Agricultural University), 2011  
National Scholarship (by the Ministry of Education of China), 2011  
National Scholarship (by the Ministry of Education of China), 2010

Chinese Academy of Sciences Merit Graduate Student, 2013  
An Xi-ji Research Award in Agricultural Economics, 2012  
Beijing Merit Undergraduate Student, 2011  
First Prize of “National Undergraduate Research Project”, 2011

Placement Director:	Joleen Hadrich	<a href="mailto:jhadrich@umn.edu">jhadrich@umn.edu</a>	612-626-5620
	Elton Mykerezi	<a href="mailto:myker001@umn.edu">myker001@umn.edu</a>	612-625-2749
Director of Graduate Studies:	Joseph Ritter	<a href="mailto:apecdgs@umn.edu">apecdgs@umn.edu</a>	612-625-0442
Advisor:	Marc F. Bellemare	<a href="mailto:marc.bellemare@gmail.com">marc.bellemare@gmail.com</a>	612-624-1692

## References

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Department of Political Science  
University of Minnesota  
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612-624-6018

Paul Glewwe  
Distinguished McKnight University Professor  
Department of Applied Economics  
University of Minnesota  
[pglewwe@umn.edu](mailto:pglewwe@umn.edu)  
612-625-0225

Renfu Luo  
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China Center for Agricultural Policy  
Peking University  
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## Working Paper Abstracts

### **Local Direct Elections and Meritocratic Selection** (Job Market Paper, with Renfu Luo)

This paper studies the relationship and mechanism between local direct elections in rural China and meritocratic selection. As local direct elections empower the selection for village leaders to village residents, who naturally communicate with village leader candidates of more times than township officials, the representative village resident infers candidates' virtue and capacity of higher accuracy and precision. Our theoretical model upon Bayesian framework demonstrates that local direct elections facilitate the fulfillment of the meritocratic selection both for village leaders and for village party secretaries. Using the quality of village roads, we find supportive empirical evidence for our theoretical predictions.

### **Lagged Variables as Instruments** (with Marc F. Bellemare)

Lagged explanatory variables remain commonly used as instrumental variables (IVs) to address endogeneity concerns in empirical studies with observational data. Few theoretical studies, however, address whether "lagged IVs" mitigate endogeneity. We develop a theoretical setup in which dynamics among the endogenous explanatory variable and the unobserved confounders cannot be ruled out and look at the consequences of lagged IVs for the estimation bias and the root mean square error (RMSE). We then use Monte Carlo simulations to illustrate our analytical findings. We show that when lagged explanatory variables have no direct causal effect on the explained variable or on the unobserved confounders, the "lagged IV" method mitigates the endogeneity problem by reducing both the estimation bias and the RMSE given specific parameter values relative to the naïve OLS case. If either or both of the

causal relationships above are present, however, lagged IVs increase both the estimation bias and the RMSE relative to OLS, and lagged IVs increase the likelihood of Type I error virtually to one.