

JINGWEN ZHENG

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Public Policy, *George Washington University (GWU)* Expected 2025
Visiting Researcher, HKU Business School, *University of Hong Kong* Fall 2022
Dissertation: Essays on Urban and Real Estate Economics
Committee: Leah Brooks (co-chair), Remi Jedwab (co-chair), Paul Carrillo, Tanner Regan
Master of Public Administration, *Cornell University* 2015
Bachelor of Arts & Bachelor of Laws, *China Foreign Affairs University* 2013

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Urban and Real Estate Economics, Program and Policy Evaluation, Development Economics

PUBLICATIONS

Wadhwa, Mansi, **Jingwen Zheng**, and Thomas D. Cook. 2024. "[How Consistent Are Meanings of ‘Evidence-Based’? A Comparative Review of 12 Clearinghouses That Rate the Effectiveness of Educational Programs.](#)" *Review of Educational Research* 94, no. 1: 3–32.

Zheng, Jingwen, Mansi Wadhwa, and Thomas D. Cook. 2022. "[How Consistently Do 13 Clearinghouses Identify Social and Behavioral Development Programs as ‘Evidence-Based’?](#)" *Prevention Science* 23, no. 8: 1343–1358.

WORKING PAPERS

Urban and Real Estate Economics

1. “How Real Estate Responds to Regulatory Changes over the Long Run: Evidence from the Closure of Hong Kong’s Downtown Airport” (Job Market Paper)
2. “The Effects of Public Rental Housing Development on Property Values in Nearby Neighborhoods: The Case of Hong Kong”, Working Paper for *the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy*
3. “Slum Eradication and Long-Run Economic Development: Evidence from the City of Darkness in Hong Kong” (with Remi Jedwab)

Program and Policy Evaluation

1. “Don’t Be Afraid of All Quasi-Experiments as Some Are Functionally Unbiased: A Meta-analysis of 46 Within-Study Comparisons in Education” (with Thomas D. Cook & Mansi Wadhwa), *Under Review*
2. “Approximate Experimental Estimates within Narrow Bounds?: A Meta-Analysis of 84 Design Experiments” (with Thomas D. Cook & Mansi Wadhwa)

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

“The Long-Term Socioeconomic Impacts of Building Height Restrictions”

“The Tragedy of the Anticommons: Evidence from Urban Redevelopment in Hong Kong”

“What Does ‘Evidence-Based’ Mean in Research Practice?” (with Thomas D. Cook & Mansi Wadhwa)

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS (* Scheduled; # Discussant)

International Conference on Urban Affairs*	Apr. 2025
SMU-Jinan Conference on Urban and Regional Economics*	Dec. 2024
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (2 papers)*	Nov. 2024
North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International*	Nov. 2024
Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration	Oct. 2024
Research Development Hour at GWU	Oct. 2024
Development Tea at GWU	May 2024
Urban Economics Association - North America Meeting	Oct. 2023
What Works Global Summit (2 papers)	Oct. 2023
Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness Conference (2 papers)	Sept. 2023
DC Urban Economics Day	May 2023
World Bank-GWU Sustainable Cities Workshop	May 2023
Washington Area Development Economics Symposium	May 2023
American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association National Conference#	2022-23
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management	2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Regression Methods for Policy Research (Graduate) Fall 2023 | In-Person

Professor: Dylan Conger, The Trachtenberg School, GWU

Average Student Rating: 4.9/5

- Led interactive lab sessions, created STATA tutorials tailored for policy research applications, and managed exam grading and feedback

Session Instructor, Emerging Markets (Undergraduate and Graduate) Fall 2014 | In-Person

Professor: Ralph Dean Christy, School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell

- Led discussion sessions, prepared course materials, supervised students in analyzing and presenting business case studies, and managed essay grading and feedback
- *Co-led research fieldwork in Malaysia during Winter 2014*, guiding students in a hands-on exploration of emerging market dynamics, which culminated in a published case study on organic agriculture in Malaysia in Cornell's *Emerging Markets Series*

Instructor, Model Foundation (Young Professionals) 2014-17 | In-Person & Online

Organizers: Purpose in Motion, in partnership with the University of Hong Kong (2014-15)/

Yale Center Beijing (2016-17)

- Developed and launched the *inaugural* course version tailored to the Asian context
- Organized course materials, delivered lectures, led workshops, and guided students in conducting field visits and drafting evaluation reports

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Staats Emerging Scholars Award, Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA)	2024
Dean’s Dissertation Completion Fellowship, GWU (\$14,000)	2024
Adam Smith Fellowship, Mercatus Center (\$10,000)	2023-24
Research Grant, Institute for Humane Studies (\$6,500)	2023
Neilom Foundation Meritorious Award in Technology and Society	2023
Cosmos Scholar, Cosmos Club (\$5,000)	2023
Pi Alpha Alpha: The International Honor Society for Public Affairs & Administration	2023
Research Grant, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (\$10,000)	2022
Field Research Grant, Sigur Center for Asian Studies (\$11,000)	2022-23
Research Grant, The Trachtenberg School at GWU (\$2,600)	2022, 2024
Research Grant, American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association (\$1,500)	2021
Program Excellence Fellowship, George Washington Institute of Public Policy	2019-24
Youth Innovation Fund, World Bank Group (\$18,000)	2016
Summer Travel Grant, Cornell University (\$3,000)	2014
Cornell Fellowship Award (\$14,000)	2014

SELF-COLLECTED/DIGITIZED DATA

Socioeconomic Characteristics at the Street Block Level in Hong Kong (1981-2021)
Real Estate Market Dataset in Hong Kong (1991-2020)
Building Footprint Dataset in Hong Kong (1988-2023)
Building Approval Dataset in Hong Kong (1980-2023)
Employment Data at the Neighborhood Level in Hong Kong (1994-2023)

POLICY RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) Feb. 2017 – June 2019
Policy and Strategy Consultant Beijing, China

Project Co-leader, “Post-2020 China Poverty Alleviation Strategy”

- Co-led the design, negotiation, and implementation of a \$2,250,000 poverty alleviation program in support of China’s central government’s post-2020 poverty and inequality reduction initiatives
- Secured and managed resources and funding (\$800,000) for a research program that assessed China’s poverty and inequality status and identified applicable solutions (*Findings available [here](#)*)
- Organized fieldwork and seminars to build collaborative institutional, research, and donor linkages, broadening the exchange of perspectives on China’s poverty and inequality reduction efforts

Project Analyst, “Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WSH) Program”

Project Analyst, “China-Africa Agricultural Cooperation Program”

World Bank Group (WBG)

June 2015 – Aug. 2021

*Short-Term Consultant, Sustainable Development Unit**Washington, D.C., USA**Independent Evaluation Group (IEG)*

- Contributed to the design and methodologies for thematic evaluation reports including: [Building Urban Resilience](#), [Reducing Disaster Risk from Natural Hazards](#), [WB Engagement in Situations of Conflict](#), and [Rural Non-Farm Economy](#)
- Co-authored the China country case study for [Doing Business and Country Reforms Evaluation](#), drawing on a literature review and conducting semi-structured interviews and focus groups with 27 leaders from public, private, and academic institutions (with Anjali Kumar)

LEADERSHIP INITIATIVES

Youth Innovation Fund (YIF), World Bank Group (WBG)

Dec. 2015 – Dec. 2016

*Project Co-Leader**Washington, D.C., USA & Sao Daeng, Thailand*

- Led an 8-member team to design and execute an award-winning development project focused on expanding income-generating opportunities for minority households in northern Thailand through community-based tourism development and e-commerce marketing

[Purpose in Motion \(PIM\)](#)

Apr. 2013 – Present

*Founding Member & Board Director**Hong Kong SAR, China*

- Led a cross-functional team to establish Asia's pioneering social impact education program, benefiting 200+ social organizations, raising \$850,000 in funding, and engaging 13,000+ youth leaders from 110+ countries to date

SKILLS

Language: Chinese (native), English (fluent), French (limited proficiency)**Software:** STATA, R, Python, ArcGIS, QGIS, LaTeX**Trainings Received:**Urban Economics Association Summer School May 2023Wheeler Institute GIS Methods for Quantitative Spatial Data Analysis workshop May 2023Managing Successful Impact Evaluation Surveys, UKAID and World Bank June 2021