

APPOINTMENTS

Professor, The Bush School of Government & Public Service, Texas A&M University, September 2022 — present

Associate Professor, The Bush School of Government & Public Service, Texas A&M University, September 2013 — August 2022

Assistant Professor, The Bush School of Government & Public Service, Texas A&M University, September 2007 — August 2013

Consultant Economist, Development Research Group, The World Bank, June 2005—June 2007; September 2009 — April 2010

AFFILIATIONS

Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Germany, 2012 — present

Research Fellow, Institute of Science, Technology, and Public Policy, The Bush School, Texas A&M University, 2022 — 2025

Senior Fellow, The Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, The Bush School, Texas A&M University, 2024

EDITORIAL POSITION

Associate Editor, *China Economic Review*, 2017—present

EDUCATION

Michigan State University, Ph.D. in Economics, 2004

Michigan State University, M.S. in Statistics, 2002

Nankai University, M.A. in Law, 1999

Nankai University, B.A. in Economics, 1996

AWARDS

Robert H. and Judy L. Allen Professorship, Texas A&M University, 2020—present

Association of Former Students College-Level Teaching Award, Texas A&M University, 2017

Bush Faculty Excellence Award, the Bush School, Texas A&M University, 2013

Dudley Seers Memorial Annual Prize for the Best Article in the *Journal of Development Studies*, co-authored with Dominique van de Walle, 2011

Chow Best Paper Award, Honorable Mention, Chinese Economist Society, 2009
The RAND Postdoctoral Fellowship for the Study of Aging, 2007–2008 (declined)
Graduate Student Fellowship, Department of Economics, Michigan State University, 1999–2003
Thoman Fellowship, International Study Program, Michigan State University, 2001–2002

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED

- Giles, John and Ren Mu. 2024. [Migration, Growth, and Poverty Reduction in Rural China: Retrospect and Prospects](#). *The World Bank Research Observer*, lkae013.
- Mu, Ren and Xinsheng Liu. 2024. [Perceived Returns to College Education by Ethnicity: Evidence from China](#). *Economics Letters*, 236, Article 111625.
- Liu, Yanyan, Shuang Ma, and Ren Mu. 2024. [Pandemic Experiences and the Post-Lockdown Economic Recovery: Evidence from China](#). *China Economic Review*, 84, Article 102125.
- Mu, Ren 2022. [Perceived relative income, fairness, and the role of government: Evidence from a randomized survey experiment in China](#). *China Economic Review*, 73, Article 101784.
- Ma, Shuang and Ren Mu. 2020. [Forced off the farm? The migration response to land requisition in China](#). *World Development*, 132, Article 104980.
- Giles, John and Ren Mu. 2018. [Village political economy, land tenure insecurity, and the rural to urban migration decision: Evidence from China](#). *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 100-2: 521-544.
- Mu, Ren and Yang Du. 2017. [Pension coverage for parents and educational investment in children: Evidence from urban China](#). *The World Bank Economic Review*, 31-2: 483-503.
- Liu, Xinsheng and Ren Mu. 2016. [Public environmental concern in China: Determinants and variations](#). *Global Environmental Change*, 37: 116-127.
- Mu, Ren and Alan de Brauw. 2015. [Migration and young child nutrition: Evidence from rural China](#). *Journal of Population Economics*, 28: 631-657.
- Mu, Ren and Xiaobo Zhang. 2014. [Do elected leaders in a limited democracy have real power? Evidence from rural China](#). *Journal of Development Economics*, 107: 17-27.
- Mu, Ren. 2014. [Regional disparities in self-reported health: Evidence from Chinese older adults](#). *Health Economics*, 23: 5297-549.
- Mu, Ren and Dominique van de Walle. 2011. [Left behind to farm? Womens labor reallocation in rural China](#). *Labour Economics*, 18: S83-S97.
- de Brauw, Alan and Ren Mu. 2011. [Migration and the overweight and underweight status of children in rural China](#). *Food Policy*, 36: 88-100.
- Mu, Ren and Xiaobo Zhang. 2011. [Why does the Great Chinese Famine affect the male and female survivors differently? Mortality selection versus son preference](#). *Economics and Human Biology*, 9: 92-105.

Mu, Ren and Dominique van de Walle. 2011. [Rural roads and poor area development in Vietnam](#). *Journal of Development Studies*, 47-5: 709-734.

Chen, Shaohua, Ren Mu and Martin Ravallion. 2009. [Are there lasting impacts of aid to poor areas? evidence from rural China](#). *Journal of Public Economics*, 93: 512-528.

van de Walle, Dominique and Ren Mu. 2007. [Fungibility and ‘flypaper’ effects on project aid: Micro-evidence for Vietnam](#). *Journal of Development Economics*, 84: 667-685.

Giles, John and Ren Mu. 2007. [Elder parent health and the migration decision of adult children: Evidence from rural China](#). *Demography*, 44-2: 265-288.

Mu, Ren. 2006. [Income shocks, consumption, wealth, and human capital: Evidence from Russia](#). *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 54-4: 857-892.

NON PEER-REVIEWED

Mu, Ren. 2019. [Aspects of gender in famine: Evidence from the Chinese Great Leap Forward Famine](#). in *Handbook of Famine, Starvation, and Nutrient Deprivation: From Biology to Policy*, V. R. Preedy and V. B. Patel, Eds., Springer International Publishing. 67-76.

Yang, Z., W. Zhao, X. Zhang, R. Mu, Y. Zhai, L. Kong, and C. Chen. 2008. [Impact of famine during pregnancy and infancy on health in adulthood](#). *Obesity Reviews*, 9-S1: 95-99.

Luo, Zhehui, Ren Mu and Xiaobo Zhang. 2006. [Famine and overweight in China](#). *Review of Agricultural Economics*, 28-3: 296-304.

WORKING PAPERS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

Ma, Shuang and Ren Mu. “Internet Connectivity and the Rural-Urban Migration in China.”

Li, Quan and Ren Mu. “Understanding the US Public Opinion Toward China Through Survey Experiments.”

Ma, Shuang, Ren Mu and Han Xiao. “The Minimum Wage Ripple in China: Changes in Job Descriptions and Applicant Profiles.”

Mu, Ren. “Shifting Gender Norms and Family Values: Understanding China’s Fertility Decline through Public Attitudes: 1995-2017.”

Mu, Ren. “Who Opt for More? Profiling Chinese Families Choosing Second and Third Births.”

RESEARCH FUNDING

“Understanding US Public Opinion Toward China Through Survey Experiments,” with Quan Li, Pilot Seed Grant Program, The Bush School, Texas A&M University, \$12,000, 2024-2025.

“Split Families in Rural China,” Dean’s Excellence Fund, The Bush School, Texas A&M University, \$5,000, 2020-2022.

“Selected Aspects of Poverty Reduction in China,” with John Giles, The World Bank, \$19,050, 2020.

“Rural-to-Urban Migration and the Provision of Local Public Goods: Evidence from Rural China,” with John Giles, The World Bank, \$100,000, 2017–2018.

“Refugees, Host Countries, and Policy Responses: Evidence from the Syria Refugee Crisis,” with Silva Hamie and Andrew Natsios. The Center on Conflict & Development and the Bush School, Texas A&M, \$40,000, 2016–2017.

“The Impact of the 2015 Earthquakes on Nepal Households,” The Center on Conflict & Development, Texas A&M University, \$13,825, 2016.

China Survey II, with Xinsheng Liu and Robert Harmel, The Bush School, Texas A&M University, \$80,000, 2015–2017.

“Determinants of Youth Employment in Ghana,” The Center on Conflict & Development, Texas A&M University, \$5,000, 2015.

“Land Requisition by Government and Investment Incentives of Farmers: Evidence from China,” with Yanyan Liu, International Food Policy Research Institute, \$10,400, 2014–2015.

“Off-farm Labor Markets and Women in China,” Faculty Research Grants, the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs at the Bush School, Texas A&M University, \$2,500, 2008.

“Economics Shocks, Internal Migration and the Roles of Institutions and Markets: Evidence from China and Indonesia,” with John Giles, the World Bank, \$58,000, 2010–2011.

“Off-farm Labor Markets and Women in China,” Faculty Research Grants, the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs at the Bush School, Texas A&M University, \$2,500, 2008.

“Economics Shocks, Internal Migration and the Roles of Institutions and Markets: Evidence from China and Indonesia,” with John Giles, the World Bank, \$58,000, 2010–2011.

“The Changing Gender Division of Labor in China,” with Dominique van de Walle, The World Bank, \$50,000, 2008–2009.

“Local Governance and Public Goods Provision in Guizhou Province,” with Xiaobo Zhang, International Food Policy Research Institute, \$8,000, 2007–2008.

COURSES TAUGHT

International Affairs Capstone Project

Fundamentals of Global Economy

Quantitative Methods I & II

Advanced Economic Development

International Studies Field Trip Seminar

International Economic Development

Economic Development of China

PHD ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Haoyu Wang, Department of Economics, 2024—present

Zhaoqing Li, Department of Political Science, 2024—present

Kexin Bai, Department of Political Science, 2023—present

Siyuan Xue, Department of Economics, 2023—present
Jian Jiao, Department of Economics, 2023—present
Mingsi Song, Department of Political Science, 2022—present
Chen Shen, Department of Political Science, 2022—present
Lu Sun, Department of Economics, 2022—2024
Wan Huang, Department of Sociology, 2020—2023
Raisa Sara, Department of Economics, 2018-2020
Xiongfei Guo, Department of Economics, 2017—2020
Xirong Chen, Department of Economics, 2015—2018
Chung-pei Pien, Department of Sociology, 2014—2018
Song Zhou, Department of Agricultural Economics, 2014—2018
Bharani Nagarathnam, Department of Human Resource Development, 2012—2017
Gonzalo Sánchez, Department of Economics, 2012—2015
Clayton Webb, Department of Political Science, 2015
Katherine Bryant, Department of Political Science, 2015
Noelia R. Páez, Department of Economics, 2010

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

The University Institutional Review Board (IRB) (Texas A&M University, 2019–present)
The Awards Committee (Department of International Affairs, 2022–2024)
The Bush School Research Committee (2019–2023)
The Bush School Graduate Instruction Committee (2013–2023)
The Ad Hoc Committee on Voting Issues (Department of International Affairs, 2019-2021)
University Task Force on Associate Professors (Texas A&M University, 2020)
Search Committees (Dean, 2024; Associate Dean, 2023; Economist, 2023–2024; Economist, 2022–2023; Department Head, 2021–2022; National Security and Diplomacy, 2018-2019; International Non-government Organization, 2015-2016; International Development, 2014-2015; Department Head, 2013-2014; International Development, 2012; Non-government Organization, 2011; Public Policy Analysis, 2011; International Institutions, 2007)
Bush School Junior Faculty Development and Retention Committee for Strategic Planning (2019)
Third Year or Tenure Review Subcommittee (Department of International Affairs, 2015-2019)
Methods Committee (Department of International Affairs, 2012, 2019)

Bush School Online Instructor Review Committee (2008, 2009, 2011–2019)
Curriculum Committee (Department of International Affairs, 2011, 2012, 2017)
Texas A&M Association of Former Students (AFS) Distinguished Achievement Committee (2016)
Master's Thesis Committee (Department of Economics, 2013-2016)
Student Admissions Committee (Department of International Affairs, 2008–2010, 2012–2014, 2016)
University Academic Civil Rights Investigation Committee (Texas A&M University, 2012-2014)
By-laws Committee (Department of International Affairs, 2014)
Module/Concentration Committee (Master Program in International Affairs, 2008)

REFEREE SERVICE

Aging & Society, American Economic Review, China Quarterly, Comparative Migration Studies, Contemporary Economic Policy, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, American Political Science, Aging & Society, American Economic Review, China Quarterly, Comparative Migration Studies, Contemporary Economic Policy, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, American Political Science Review, Demography, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economics of Education Review, Economics and Human Biology, Economic Inquiry, Economic Letters, Economics of Transition, Education Economics, Food Policy, Health Economics, Journal of African Economics, Journal of Agricultural Economics, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Development Effectiveness, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Economic Development, Journal of Economics of Aging, Journal of Feminist Economics, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Population Economics, Labour Economics, National Science Foundation, Oxford University Press, Pacific Economic Review, Population Research and Policy Review, Population Studies, Research on Aging, Review of Development Economics, Review of Economics of the Household, Review of Income and Wealth, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Science, Social Science & Medicine, World Bank Economic Review, World Development.