

Mingyao (Derrick) Xu

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Academic Appointments

2026– Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Southampton

2025–26 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, WZB Berlin Social Science Center

Education

2020–25 Ph.D. in Economics, University of Bristol. Supervisors: Sarah Smith and Yanos Zylberberg.

2019–20 M.Res. in Economics (Distinction), University of Bristol

2018–19 M.Sc. in Economics, Accounting and Finance (Distinction), University of Bristol

2014–18 B.Sc. in Information Management and Information Systems, Nanjing Audit University

Academic Visits

Fall 2022 Texas A&M University (host: Jonathan Meer)

Sept. 2022 Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Indiana University Indianapolis (host: Mark Ottoni-Wilhelm)

Research Interests

- Applied microeconomics; public economics; behavioural economics
- Charitable giving; climate change; political economy
- Unstructured and non-traditional data; machine learning

Publications

- **Only in My Backyard: The Effect of Flood Exposure on Environmental Behavior** (sole-authored) *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*. [manuscript](#)

Working Papers

1. **Spillovers in the Charitable Market: Evidence from Reputation Shocks** (sole-authored) *Revise & resubmit, Economic Journal*. [manuscript](#)
2. **Do Crises Increase Parochial Behavior? Evidence from Donations During Covid** (with Esteban Jaimovich and Sarah Smith) *Submitted*. [manuscript](#)

Work in Progress

1. **The Evolution of Prosociality** (with Maja Adena)
2. **Decision-making of Charities in Face of Competition** (with Andreas Lange, Jonathan Meer, and Jan Schmitz)
3. **Emotional Giving** (with Maja Adena and Sarah Smith)

Conference and Seminar Presentations

2026 Ludwig Erhard–ifo Conference on Institutional Economics 2026; ESPE Annual Conference 2026; RES Annual Conference 2026; 3rd Annual BEE UK Conference 2026

2025 University of Southampton; University of Bath; University of Leeds; WZB Berlin Social Science Center; 2nd Text as Data in Economics Workshop; 4th Cardiff Economic Theory and Experimental Economics Workshop; ASSA Annual Meeting

2024 Applied Young Economist Webinar; International Conference on Empirical Economics, Penn State Altoona; Journées Louis-André Gérard-Varet; 2nd Essex PhD Conference in Applied Economics

2023 27th Meeting of Young Economists; RES Annual Conference

2022 Texas A&M Econ Research Lab Meeting; Science of Philanthropy Initiative Conference; 4th Monash–Warwick–Zurich Text-as-Data Workshop; RES Symposium of Junior Researchers; Chinese Economists Society Annual Conference; Surrey PhD Workshop in Microeconomics; Annual Southern PhD Economics Conference

Grants and Honors

- Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship (2025–2028) — offered, declined
- School of Economics Bursary for PhD Studies (2020–2024), University of Bristol
- The University's Ten Outstanding Young Persons (2017), Nanjing Audit University

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate:

- Dissertation: Research Topics (2026)
- Economics with Data (2026); Economics Data (2021)
- Econometrics II (2022–2024)
- Mathematics for Economics (2023)

Postgraduate:

- Data Analytics (2020)

Supervision:

- M.Sc. Economics (MECON) dissertation (1 student)

Professional Activities

Referee service:

Economic Journal ($\times 2$); Economics of Education Review; Journal of Public Economics; Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization ($\times 2$); Journal of Economic Psychology; Journal of Environmental Economics and Management ($\times 2$); Environmental and Resource Economics; Global Environmental Change; European Association of Young Economists Annual Meeting ($\times 2$).

Outreach:

- Research insight sessions for the Charities Aid Foundation (2023, 2024)

Administrative service:

- PhD seminar organiser, University of Bristol (2023–2024)
- Economics Seminar Organisation Committee member, WZB Berlin Social Science Center (2025)

Personal. Citizenship: China. Languages: English (fluent); Chinese (native). UK status: Global Talent Visa.

Last updated: May 2026.