

XUCHAO GAO

Department of Economics
270 Bay State Road, Room 515
Boston Massachusetts 02215 USA
Cell: (984) 377-9383
Email: xcgao@bu.edu
Web site: <https://xuchaogao.github.io>

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, May 2024 (expected)
Dissertation Title: *Essays in Urban and Labor Economics*
Dissertation Committee: Kevin Lang, Daniele Paserman and Benjamin Marx

M.A., Economics, Duke University, Durham, NC, 2018

B.A., Agricultural Economics, Renmin University of China, Beijing, China, 2016
Exchange Program, UC Davis, CA, 2014-2015

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Labor Economics, Urban Economics, Development Economics

WORKING PAPERS

“[The impacts of population mobility controls on housing prices: Evidence from the 2014 household registration reform in China](#),” October 2023. Job Market paper.
“[Network job and worker benefits of rural urban migrants in China](#),” October 2020.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Education improvements and delayed marriages for women”

PRESENTATIONS

Applied Microeconomics Dissertation Workshop, Boston University, 2020-2023
Development Reading Group, Boston University, 2020

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Dean’s Fellowship, Boston University, 2018-2023
Tuition Scholarship, Duke University, 2016-2018
Scholarship for undergraduate exchange program, Renmin University of China, 2014-2015
Scholarship of Academic Excellence, Renmin University of China, 2013-2016
National Scholarship for undergraduate, China Education Ministry, 2012

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for Professor Marjorie McElroy and Professor Seth Sanders, Duke University, 2017-2018
Co-organizer, Development Reading Group, Fall 2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Empirical Economics II, Department of Economics, Boston University, Summer 2022
Teaching Assistant, Empirical Economics II (EC204), Department of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2023
Teaching Assistant, Empirical Economics I (EC203), Department of Economics, Boston University, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023
Teaching Fellow, Introductory Microeconomics Analysis, Department of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2021, Summer 2023
Teaching Fellow, Introductory Macroeconomics Analysis, Department of Economics, Boston University, Summer 2022, Summer 2023
Academic Tutor, Introductory Microeconomics Analysis, Summer 2017

LANGUAGES

English (fluent), Mandarin (native)

COMPUTER SKILLS: STATA, R, MATLAB, LaTeX

CITIZENSHIP/VISA STATUS: China/F1

REFERENCES

**Professor Kevin
Lang**

Department of Economics
Boston University
Phone: (617) 353-5694
Email: lang@bu.edu

**Professor Daniele
Paserman**

Department of Economics
Boston University
Phone: (617) 353-5695
Email: paserman@bu.edu

**Professor Benjamin
Marx**

Department of Economics
Boston University
Email: bmarx@bu.edu

XUCHAO GAO

The impacts of population mobility controls on housing prices: Evidence from the 2014 household registration reform in China (Job Market Paper)

Household registration system (Hukou system) as a mobility control instrument in China largely restricts individuals' access to social welfare system out of their hometown, making it costly and inconvenient for migrants to live in the hosting cities in the long term. Majority of the migrants do not consider purchase houses where they work without a Hukou. In this paper, I study the effects of 2014 Hukou reform, a major household registration relaxation, on housing prices in the urban area. Using apartment complex level housing data, I find that the implementation of the reform lead to an increase in prices of lower-quality residential properties while those of higher quality experience negative shocks. This is consistent with the findings in previous literature that more migrant workers move to places where controls are relaxed, which spur demands for basic housing. I further supplement the findings and investigate potential mechanisms using household survey data.

Network job and worker benefits of rural urban migrants in China

Despite the rise in the number of rural urban migrants since the 1980s, many migrants remain unaware of or are denied their entitled labor benefits. This situation could be exacerbated by the lack of transparency about worker benefits, and the high mobility of the migrant workforce. Using Chinese rural urban migration data, this paper studies whether jobs obtained through social network provide better worker benefits. My results suggest that network jobs tend to be associated with worse benefits. I discuss a few potential reasons behind this pattern. Furthermore, I find that migrants' decision to stay in urban areas is influenced more by housing benefits than other forms of worker benefits.