

MINGYUAN CHEN

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<https://mingyuanchen94.github.io/website/>

EDUCATION

PhD in Economics, Lancaster University, UK	2023
Master in Economics, Lancaster University, UK	2018
Master in Quantitative Research Method, University College London, UK	2017
BSc in Economics, University College London, UK	2016

RESEARCH FIELDS

Agricultural Economics, Networks, Environmental Economics, Applied Microeconomics

WORKING PAPERS

Director Appointments, Boardroom Networks, and Firm Environmental Performance. *(Co-authoring with Dakshina G. De Silva and Aurelie Slechten)*

Using BoardEx (2000–2017), we create a dynamic network connecting firms and board directors for the United States. We use the Environmental Protection Agency’s Toxic Release Inventory to measure environmental performance at the director and firm-level. We first examine how a candidate’s environmental performance and networks affect director appointments. We find that firms are likely to appoint influential directors with good environmental records and similar characteristics. We then show that directors’ past environmental records in other companies affect their current firm’s chemical releases. We address endogeneity concerns related to directors’ appointments and firms’ environmental performance by modeling directors’ network formation.

Board Networks, Corporate Political Donations, and Environmental Performance. *(Co-authoring with Dakshina G. De Silva, Anita Schiller and Aurelie Slechten)*

We combine data sets from US EPA Toxic Release Inventory and Database on Ideology, Money in Politics, and Elections Public Version 2.0 (DIME) to link environmental performance with political ideology. We first examine how a firm appoints directors considering the candidates’ political ideology and past environmental performance. Results show that firms tend to appoint candidates who share more similarities, including political ideology measured by campaign finance score obtained from DIME. Next, we study how a firm’s environmental performance is related to the firm’s and its board’s political contributions. Our results show that firms and boards that align with Republican Party’s ideology tend to have poor environmental records compared to firms and boards that align with Democratic Party’s ideology. We explore two possible mechanisms that can explain this finding: 1) firms’ and directors’ political ideology helps to shape their political contributions and environmental performance, and 2) firms and directors use political contributions to influence regulators to mitigate their regulatory risk caused by their poor environmental performance.

WORK IN PROGRESS

The macroeconomic impact of policy risk in an E-DSGE model

Co-authoring with Olayinka Oyekola

Trade and Networks

Co-authoring with Pavel Chakraborty, Dakshina G. De Silva, and Huan Yang

EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Research Associate

February 2023 - present

Land, Environment, Economics and Policy Institute (LEEP), University of Exeter

I am working on the Food Provision Through Sustainable Farming Systems And Value Chains (VISION-ARY)¹ Project that aims to help transition towards more sustainable food systems.

Teaching Assistant, Quantitative Methods for Economics

October 2018 - 2020

Taught tutorials for first year undergraduate students on mathematics and statistics

Volunteer at the British Academy of Management Conference

September 2021

CERTIFICATES

Associate Fellow

2020

Certified by Advance HE

TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

Modeling and Analysis
Software & Tools

Stata, R, Gephi, SPSS, Python, Matlab
MS Office, Latex

WORKING PERMIT

Currently on UK Settlement Visa (indefinite leave to remain)

LANGUAGES

English (fluent), Mandarin (native)

REFEREES

Dakshina G. De Silva, Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, Lancaster University, Lancaster, LA1 4YX, UK, Email: d.desilva@lancaster.ac.uk

Aurelie Slechten, Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor), Department of Economics, Lancaster University, Lancaster, LA1 4YX, UK, Email: a.slechten@lancaster.ac.uk

Alex Inman, Professor, Land, Environment, Economics and Policy Institute (LEEP), University of Exeter, Exeter, EX4 4PU, UK, Email: A.Inman@exeter.ac.uk

¹see <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-cl6-2021-farm2fork-01-08>