Yating Gong

University of Wisconsin – Madison
Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics
427 Lorch St
Madison, WI, USA 53706

e-mail: ygong42@wisc.edu
cell: 608-234-3947
website: https://ytgonguw.github.io/

Education

University of Wisconsin – Madison
Ph.D., Agricultural and Applied Economics — expected, May 2024
M.S., Economics — 2018

Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
M.S., Agricultural Economics and Management — 2015

Peking University
B.S., Economics (Double Degree) — 2015

China Agricultural University
B.S., Agriculture — 2012

Fields of Concentration

Primary: Health Economics, Public Policy, Agricultural Economics
Secondary: Industrial Organization

Publications

Hutchins, Jared, **Gong, Yating**, and Du, Xiaodong. 2023. "The Role of Animal Breeding in Productivity Growth: Evidence from Wisconsin Dairy Farms." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 1–20. https://doi.org/10.1111/ajae.12374 (link)

Mao, Shiping and **Gong, Yating**. 2017. "The Investment System in Japan's Agricultural Infrastructure Construction: Evolution, Characteristics and Enlightenment." *China Soft Science*, 10: 1-11. (link)

Mao, Shiping **Gong, Yating**, and Liu, Fujiang. 2017. "UK Agricultural Subsidy Policies and Their Implications to China." *Research of Agricultural Modernization*, 38(01): 31-37. (link)

Job Market Paper

Gong, Yating. *Taxing for Health: The Enduring Benefits of In Utero Cigarette Tax Exposure on Adult Health.* (link)

Working In Progress

Averett, Susan, **Gong, Yating**, Wang, Yang. *Health Effects of Exposure to Child Care Subsidies.*

Du, Xiaodong, **Gong,Yating**, and Wang, Yang. *The Impact of Low-Level Air Lead Pollution on Infant Mortality.*

Selected Presentations

2021 Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting,
"The Role of Animal Breeding in Productivity Growth: Evidence from Wisconsin Dairy Farms".

Academic Working Experience

University of Wisconsin – Madison
La Follette School of Public Affairs
Research Assistant for Professor Yang Wang 2020 – present
Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics
Program Assistant for Professor Sheldon Du 2020

Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science
Agricultural Information Institute
Research Assistant for Researcher Shiping Mao 2015–2016

Teaching Experience

University of Wisconsin – Madison
Math 320 – *Linear Algebra and Differential Equations – Teaching Assistant* 2019-2020
Math 114 – *Algebra and Trigonometry – Teaching Assistant* 2018

Languages and Computer Skills

Languages: English (fluent), Mandarin (native)
Professional skills: STATA, Python

References

Sheldon(Xiaodong) Du
Associate Professor
Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics
University of Wisconsin – Madison
e-mail: xdu23@wisc.edu

Yang Wang
Associate Professor
La Follette School of Public Affairs
University of Wisconsin – Madison
e-mail: yang.wang@lafollette.wisc.edu

Susan Averett
Charles A. Dana Professor of Economics
Lafayette College
e-mail: averetts@lafayette.edu

Abstracts

Taxing for Health: The Enduring Benefits of In Utero Cigarette Tax Exposure on Adult Health [JOB MARKET PAPER] (link)

Cigarette taxes have been shown to reduce maternal smoking and enhance birth outcomes. However, it is still uncertain whether these effects persist into adulthood. This study investigates the effects on adult health outcomes of exposure to higher cigarette taxes while in utero. Utilizing a generalized difference-in-difference methodology and analyzing a rich dataset spanning births from 1968 to 1994, I find that a 10-cent higher cigarette tax while individuals were in utero leads to a significant 1.8 percentage point reduction in the likelihood that the treated individuals (evaluated at ages 25 to 35) ever experienced health conditions such as asthma, lung disease, heart disease, or heart attacks. The examination of mechanisms underscores pathways through parental smoking behavior during pregnancy, birth outcomes, childhood health, smoking behavior in adolescence and adulthood, cognitive ability, educational attainment, and age of first childbirth for treated individuals. The study contributes to the burgeoning literature on early-life determinants of health and enriches our understanding of the complex interplay between cigarette policies and long-term health, with implications for policymakers and public health interventions.

The Role of Animal Breeding in Productivity Growth: Evidence from Wisconsin Dairy Farms (2023), with Jared Hutchins and Sheldon Du. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 1-20. (link)

We examine the relationship between investments in animal breeding and productivity growth on Wisconsin dairy farms using a control function approach. We incorporate farmlevel annual investment in breeding and genetics into the law of motion of productivity as in De Loecker (2013) to test the relationship between these investments and realized productivity. Our unique dataset also allows us to look at the effect of choosing bulls with high milk yield potential on productivity. Our results indicate that breeding investments made 3 years prior are associated with higher productivity of the current cohort. However, the farms with the highest level of productivity reap the lowest benefits from breeding investments, suggesting that there are diminishing returns to investing in genetics. When milk output is not quality adjusted, the contribution of breeding to productivity is undetectable, suggesting that breeding and investments in milk quality are related. We conclude that investments in breeding and genetics significantly contribute to dairy farm productivity, especially in terms of milk quality.