

Yu Lu

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Education

- 2021-2025 Ph.D. in Human Dimensions of Ecosystem Management, University of Wisconsin-Madison
GPA: 3.8/4 (May 2025)
Chair: [Adena Rissman](#) (Human Dimensions of the Environment)
Committee: Eleanor Powell (Political Science), Christopher Kucharik (Agronomy and Environmental Studies), Mark Rickenbach (Forestry, Natural Resources, and Agriculture), Chloe Wardropper (Environmental Policy and Sustainable Landscapes)
- 2016-2020 Ph.D. in Natural Resource Management, Peking University
GPA: 92.9/100 (GPA rank: 2/40)
Chair: [Wenjun Li](#) (Natural Resource Management)
Committee: Jintao Xu (Natural Resource Economics); Shiqiu Zhang (Environmental Economics), Jianhua Xu (Environmental Policy and Management), Qi Wang (Regional Environmental Economics)
- 2019 Visiting scholar, Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, University of California, Berkeley
[Lynn Huntsinger](#) Lab
- 2012-2016 B.A. in Agricultural and Forestry Economics and Management, Beijing Forestry University
GPA: 92.1/100 (GPA rank: 2/28)
Elite Class (Distinction)

Fields of Interest

- Primary Environmental and Agricultural Public Policy, Human Dimensions of Conservation, Climate Change, Sustainability, Environmental Sociology
- Secondary Social-Ecological Systems, Decision-making, Farm Financial Programs, Political Economy, Agricultural Conservation Practices, Climate Adaptation and Mitigation, Social Network Analysis, Food-Forest-Bioenergy-Water-Ecosystem Nexus

Peer-Reviewed Articles

3. Rissman, Adena R., Ana Fochesatto, Erin Lowe, **Yu Lu**, Regina M. Hirsch, Randall D. Jackson, 2023. Grasslands and managed grazing policy review, *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*, 7, 1010441 [[Full-text](#)]
2. **Lu, Yu**, Lu Yu, Wenjun Li, and Mariya Aleksandrova. 2022. Impacts and Synergies of Weather Index Insurance and Microcredit in Rural Areas: a Systematic Review, *Environmental Research Letters*, 17, 103002. [[Full-text](#)]
1. **Lu, Yu**, Lynn Huntsinger, and Wenjun Li. 2022. Microcredit programs may increase risk to pastoralist livelihoods in Inner Mongolia, *Ambio*, 51, 1063–1077. [[Full-text](#)]

Selected Research and Publications in Progress

Human-Environment Interactions; Social and Ecological Impacts; Justice; Sustainability; Climate

4. **Lu, Yu**, Yanbo Li, Wenjun Li, and Lu Yu. When Embeddedness Turns to Disembeddedness: Rethinking the Relationship Between Human and Nature. [[Under Review](#)].
5. **Lu, Yu**, Adena R. Rissman. Agricultural Financial Instruments' Roles in Conservation Practices on Croplands and Grasslands in the Upper Midwest, USA.
6. **Lu, Yu**, and Lu Yu. Addressing Risks in Resource-Dependent Communities Exploring the Potential Synergies Between Weather Index Insurance and Credit.
7. **Lu, Yu**, Lilian Herling, Maddie Olson, Adena R. Rissman. Conservation, Intensification, and Identity: Land Advisors' Cropland and Grassland Experiences in the Upper Midwest, USA.
8. Zhang, Zhiqi, Wenjun Li, Gongbuzeren. **Yu Lu**. Gilded Trap: Caterpillar Fungus and Urbanization on the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau.

Environmental and Agricultural Policy Design and Implementation; Justice; Sustainability; Climate

9. **Lu, Yu**, Adena R. Rissman. Comparing Farm Financial Support Between Croplands and Grasslands in the Upper Midwest, USA.
10. Fochesatto, Ana, **Yu Lu**, Adena R. Rissman. Dairy at a Crossroads: Good Farmers and Policy Preferences Toward Environmental and Labor Issues.

Political Economy of Information, Interest Groups, and Organizational Networks; Sustainability; Climate

11. **Lu, Yu**, Christopher Kucharik, Mark Lubell, Eleanor Powell, Mark Rickenbach, Adena R. Rissman. Conference Sponsorship Positively Associated with Market but not Climate Topics. [[In submission Spring 2025](#)]
12. **Lu, Yu**, Adena R. Rissman. Navigating Interdisciplinary Conference Sponsor Networks in Food-Forestry-Energy- Water-Ecosystems Nexus.
13. Rissman, R. Adena, **Yu Lu**, Ana Fochesatto. The politics of goal setting and measuring outcomes for food, ecosystems, and growers.
14. **Lu, Yu**, Adena R. Rissman. Comparing funding networks within the Food-Energy-Water-Ecosystems nexus.

Book

Li, Wenjun, Jianhua Xu, and **Yu Lu**. 2018. A Vision for Reform: Roadmap and Trends for China's Conservation of Natural Resources. *National Park System Construction Research Series*. China Environment Publishing Group. [[Introduction](#)]

Book Chapter

Lu, Yu. 2023. Protected Area Management. In Forest and Rangeland Resources Management. China Dadi Publishing House.

Research and Policy Briefs

Lu, Yu, Adena R. Rissman, Lilian Herling, Maddie Olson, Eliza Alexandra Eyman. Midwest Farmer Perspectives on Farm Financial Support. [[Full-text](#)]

Media coverage: *National Hog Farmer; Wisconsin Ag Connection; Farms.com; Morning Ag Clips; Mid-west Farm Report; ProSwine; Feedstuffs; Kentucky Ag Connection*

Lu, Yu, Adena R. Rissman, Lilian Herling, Maddie Olson, Eliza Alexandra Eyman. Midwest Farmer Perspectives on Conservation. [[Full-text](#)]

Rissman, Adena R., Ana Fochesatto, **Yu Lu**. 2023. Wisconsin Dairy Farmer Perspectives on Water Quality. [[Full-text](#)]

Rissman, Adena R., Ana Fochesatto, **Yu Lu**. 2023. Wisconsin Dairy Farmer Perspectives on Labor and Social Policy. [[Full-text](#)]

Felch, Kailey, Ana Fochesatto, Erin Lowe, **Yu Lu**, Adena R. Rissman. 2024. Managed Grazing and Grassland: Policy Trends and Opportunities in Missouri. [[Full-text](#)]

Felch, Kailey, Ana Fochesatto, Erin Lowe, **Yu Lu**, Adena R. Rissman. 2024. Managed Grazing and Grassland: Policy Trends and Opportunities in Illinois. [[Full-text](#)]

Felch, Kailey, Ana Fochesatto, Erin Lowe, **Yu Lu**, Adena R. Rissman. 2024. Managed Grazing and Grassland: Policy Trends and Opportunities in Minnesota. [[Full-text](#)]

Non-Peer-Reviewed Articles

Chen, Xiangjun, and **Yu Lu**. 2017. “Interviews of Employees and Residents in Wuyishan National Park.” *Man and Biosphere*,4:30-33

Lu, Yu. and Chen Xiangjun. 2017. “Interviews of Employees and Residents in Pudacuo National Park.” *Man and Biosphere*,4:46-47

Chen, Xiangjun, and **Yu Lu**. 2017. “Interviews of Employees and Residents in Qianjiangyuan National Park.” *Man and Biosphere*,4:50-53

Grants

2024-2025 **National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research in Decision, Risk and Management Sciences.** *The Role of Farm Financial Programs in Climate and Market Risks and Land Management.* My role: Co-PI. PI: Adena Rissman. (\$18,403)

Responsibilities: proposal writing; interviews of farmers, financial professionals, and advisors in the Upper Midwest, USA; paper and report writing

2020-2025 **National Science Foundation.** *Sustaining Food, Energy, and Water Security in Agricultural Landscapes of the Upper Mississippi River Basin.* My role: Graduate researcher. PI: Christopher Kucharik. (\$2,539,683)

Responsibilities: surveys of row crop, forage, grass-based livestock, and confinement livestock farmers, financial professionals, and advisors in the Upper Midwest, USA; paper and report writing

2024 Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems Graduate Student Summer Grant. *Sustainable Farmers’ Land Management Practices and Agricultural Financial Programs in the Upper Midwest.* My role: PI. (\$3,000)

- Responsibilities: Proposal writing; interviews of sustainable farmers in the Upper Midwest, USA; paper and report writing
- 2016-2020 National Science Foundation of China. *Social Ecological Impacts of Household Credit on Pastoral Areas and Policy Implications*. My role: Graduate researcher. PI: Wenjun Li. (¥882,600)
Responsibilities: surveys and interviews of pastoralists in Inner Mongolia, China; paper and report writing
- 2017-2018 National Development and Reform Commission of China, Paulson Institute, and Heren Charitable Foundation. *Reform Trends and a Policy Roadmap for Conserving Natural Resources*. My role: Graduate researcher. PI: Wenjun Li. (¥300,000)
Responsibilities: interviews of government agencies, researchers, non-profit organizations, private, and local communities in four National Parks; book and report writing
- 2015-2016 Beijing Education Committee. *Product structure design of Beijing Garden Center*. My role: PI. (¥5,000).
Responsibilities: Proposal writing; surveys and interviews of local communities; report writing
- 2015-2016 China's State Forestry Administration. *Returning Farmland to Forest*. My role: Undergraduate researcher. PI: Chengliang Wu.
Responsibilities: surveys and interviews of farmers in Sichuan Province, China; report writing
- 2015-2016 China's State Forestry Administration. *Disputed Mediation of Rural Forest Land Contracting Management*. My role: Undergraduate researcher. PI: Chengliang Wu.
Responsibilities: surveys and interviews of local communities and government agencies; report writing
- 2014-2015 Beijing Forestry University. *Influencing Factors of Rural Labor Resource Allocation After Collective Forest Right Reform*. My role: Co-PI. PI: Da Li. (¥1,500)
Responsibilities: Proposal writing; surveys and interviews of local communities; report writing

Honors and Awards

- 2024 Student Research Grants Competition (\$1,500), UW-Madison
- 2024 Thomas O'Brien Research Innovation Award (\$1,000), UW-Madison
- 2024 Graduate Student Travel Scholarship (\$500), Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, UW-Madison
- 2024 Student Scholarship Award (\$150), Growing Outreach Conference
- 2023 Vera and Donald Wallach Scholarship (\$2,000), UW-Madison
- 2023 Joon Lee Award (\$1,000), UW-Madison
- 2023 Student Scholarship Award, Phosphorus Conference
- 2022 Thomas O'Brien Research Innovation Award (\$1,000), UW-Madison
- 2022 Vera and Donald Wallach Scholarship (\$2,500), UW-Madison
- 2019 Funding for outstanding Ph.D. students studying abroad (\approx ¥90,000), Peking University
- 2018 The prize for Exceptional Studies (Top 9/about 200), Peking University
- 2018 International Conference Travel Award (\approx ¥11,000), Peking University
- 2017 Excellent Research Award (Top 23/about 200), Peking University
- 2017 Special Scholarship (2nd/about 37) (\approx ¥5,000), Peking University
- 2017 Xuetielong Scholarship (2/40) (\approx ¥2,500), Peking University
- 2016 Outstanding Student (1st in 2/about 1980), Beijing Municipal Education Commission

- 2016 Outstanding Graduate (Top 10%), College of Economics and Management, Beijing Forestry University
- 2015 Outstanding Student (Top 10%), Beijing Forestry University
- 2015 Excellent Student Scholarship (Top 15%) (\approx ¥2,500), Beijing Forestry University
- 2014 Third Prize of 25th College Mathematics Competition (Top 150 of undergraduates major in economics and management), Beijing
- 2014 National Encouragement Scholarship (Top 3%) (\approx ¥5,000), Beijing Forestry University
- 2014 Outstanding Student Leader (Top 10%), Beijing Forestry University
- 2014 Excellent Student Scholarship (Top 15%) (\approx ¥2,500), Beijing Forestry University
- 2014 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) volunteer service, interviewed by the youth league committee of Beijing Forestry University for outstanding volunteer services
- 2013 Excellent Student Scholarship (Top 15%) (\approx ¥2,500), Beijing Forestry University
- 2012 Outstanding Volunteer Services Award of Beijing Forestry University's 60th anniversary celebration, Beijing Forestry University

Conference Presentations and Invited Workshops

- 2025 Midwest Political Science Association Conference. *Private Sponsorship Lower for Agricultural Conferences with Climate Change Topics, USA*. Chicago, Illinois (April 3-6)
Session chair: *Bridging Ties in Social Networks*
Presenter: *How Social Networks Impact Governance*
- 2024 Conservation Social Science Conference. *Farm Financial Programs and Farmer Identity in Conservation Practice Implementation in the Upper Midwest, USA*. Virtual (November 20-23).
- 2024 UCOWR/NIWR Annual Water Resources Conference. *Agricultural Financial Instruments' Roles in Land Practices and Soil and Water Conservation in the Upper Midwest, USA*. St. Louis, Missouri, USA (September 30-October 2).
- 2024 Growing Outreach Conference. *Agricultural Financial Instruments' Roles in Land Practices in the Upper Midwest, USA*. Madison, Wisconsin, USA (August 22-23).
- 2024 Soil and Water Conservation Society International Annual Conference. *Agricultural Financial Instruments' Roles in Land Practices and Soil and Water Conservation in the Upper Midwest, USA*. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina (July 22).
- 2024 86th Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society. Madison, Wisconsin, USA (July 24-20).
Two presentations: *Comparing Farm Financial Support Between Croplands and Grasslands in the Upper Midwest, USA*; *Agricultural Financial Instruments' Roles in Land Practices in the Upper Midwest, USA*
- 2024 Midwest INFIEWS Fest. Ames, Iowa, USA (June 3-4).
Three presentations: *INFIEWS Project Key Methods and Findings, Project Highlights and Challenges, Project Shorter Overview*.
Panelist: *Transdisciplinary workforce development*
Poster, *Agriculture, Bioenergy, Water, and Ecosystem Conferences in the U.S. Midwest: Conference Sponsorship Positively Associated with Market but not Climate Topics*
- 2023 New Landowner Advisory Board Meeting. *Midwest Farmer and Advisor Survey Plans*. Madison, Wisconsin, USA (April 6).

- 2022 International Association for Society and Natural Resources Conference. *Who Pays for the Party? Conference Sponsor Networks in the Food-Energy-Water-Ecosystems Nexus*. Virtual (October 5).
- 2022 Society of American Foresters 2022 National Convention. *Who Pays for the Party? Conference Sponsor Networks in the Food-Energy-Water-Ecosystems Nexus*. Baltimore, Maryland, USA (September 22).
- 2022 China Society of Forestry, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Economics Annual Conference. *Impacts of Microcredit Programs on Coupled Social-Ecological Systems in Semiarid Areas*. Virtual (August 13).
- 2022 AFHVS / ASFS Conference. *Who pays for the party? Conference sponsor networks in the Food-Energy-Water-Ecosystems Nexus*. Virtual (May 18).
- 2022 Sustainability and Development Conference. *Addressing Risks in Resource-Dependent Communities Exploring the Potential Synergies Between Weather Index Insurance and Credit*. Virtual (January 27).
- 2021 UCOWR/NIWR Annual Water Resources Conference. *Comparing Funding Networks within the Food-Energy-Water-Ecosystems Nexus*. Virtual (June 9).
- 2019 Sustainability and Development Conference. *Modeling Feedback Generated in Coupled Social-Ecological Systems: the Development of Microcredit Programs for Semi- arid Areas*. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA (January 24).
Presenter and Moderator
- 2018 Sustainability and Development Conference. *Microcredits Increase Risk of Pastoralists' Livelihood in Semiarid Areas*. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA (November 10).

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate Classes

- Spring 2025 Teaching Assistant and Principal Instructor, Introduction to Community and Environmental Sociology (C&E SOC 140)
- Fall 2024 Guest lecturer, Indigenous Peoples and the Environment (AMER IND 306), Mean: 4.6/5.0; Median: 5.0/5.0
- Fall 2024, Guest lecturer, Natural Resource Policy (FWE 515), Mean: 4.9/5.0; 4.4/5.0; Median: 2023 5.0/5.0; 4.5/5
- Fall 2023 Guest lecture, Learning to Action: Professional Development (FWE 390)

Graduate Classes

- Fall 2022 Co-instructor, Policy and Politics of Environmental Information (FEW 875), Mean: 4.8/5.0; Median: 5.0/5.0
- Spring 2017 Teaching Assistant, Property Rights and Natural Resources Research

Student Mentoring

- 2024-2025 Eliza Alexandra Eyman, Conservation Biology, B.A.
Eyman E., Lu Y., Rissman, A.R. *Perceptions and Behaviors of Midwest Farmers and Private Land Advisors in Conservation Practices*. Undergraduate Research Symposium. April 2025.

- Eyman E., Lu Y., Rissman, A.R. *Perceptions and Behaviors of Midwest Farmers and Private Land Advisors in Conservation Practices*. Midwest Political Science Association Conference. April 2025.
- 2022-2024 Lily Jacqueline Herling, Community and Environmental Sociology, B.A.
Herling, J., Lu Y., Olson, M. Rissman, A.R. *Conservation and Intensification: Land Advisors' Experiences with Croplands and Grasslands*. Undergraduate Research Symposium. April 2024.
- 2022-2024 Maddie Olson, Community and Environmental Sociology, B.A.
- 2022-2023 Via de Jesus, Environmental Conservation, M.S.
- 2022 Emma Henning, Community and Environmental Sociology, B.A.

Journal Refereeing Experience

Rangeland Ecology and Management; Journal of Rural Studies; Grassland Research; Environment, Development and Sustainability; Environmental Science and Policy; World Development

Selected Fieldwork Experience

Rural communities: Social-Ecological Systems

- 2024 Oneida Nation Farms, Green Bay, Wisconsin, USA (a grass-based livestock farm)
- 2022 Brey Cycle Farm, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, USA (a dairy farm)
- 2019 Santa Maria, California (fire risk management on California rangelands)
- 2016, 2018 Inner Mongolia, China (surveys and interviews, the impact of microcredit programs on social-ecological systems)
- 2016 Sichuan, China (surveys and interviews, returning farmland to forest)
- 2016 Henan (semi-structured interviews, disputed mediation for rural forest land contracting management)

Government Agencies, Researchers, Non-Profit Organizations, Communities: Protected Areas

- 2017 Yunnan, China (Semi-structured interviews, reform policy roadmap for Pudacuo National Park)
- 2017 Zhejiang, China (Semi-structured interviews, reform policy roadmap for Qianjiangyuan National Park)
- 2017 Fujian, China (Semi-structured interviews, reform policy roadmap for Wuyishan National Park)
- 2015 Beijing, China (structured interviews, product structure design for the Beijing Garden Center)

Skills

- Programming STATA, Python, R, NVivo, Qualtrics online survey software, Tableau, UCINET, LaTeX, SPSS, EViews
- Econometrics Applied Econometrics Modelling, Causal Inference, and Machine Learning Methods
- Languages Mandarin Chinese (native), English (fluent)

References

[Adena Rissman](#)

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[Lynn Huntsinger](#)

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