

Yining Feng

Postdoctoral Scholar

The Pennsylvania State University

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental demography, natural disaster migration, computational social science, spatial analysis, big data analysis

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Rural Sociology and Demography (dual-title), December 2024, The Pennsylvania State University (PSU), PA

M.S. in Engineering management, June 2019, Wuhan University (WHU), China

B.S. in Engineering management, June 2016, Huazhong Agricultural University (HZAU), China

APPOINTMENTS

- **Postdoctoral Scholar**, Population Research Institute, PSU, January 2025 to Present:
 - Apply machine learning and big data techniques to analyze large-scale datasets on natural disasters and human decision-making, risk perception, and behavioral responses.
 - Integrate diverse data sources to analyze the impacts of climate change on community resilience, population health and wellbeing in Arctic communities.
- **Graduate Research Assistant**, Computational and Spatial Analysis Core, Social Science Research Institute, Population Research Institute, PSU, August 2019 to December 2024:
 - Explore disaster-induced migration patterns and associated vulnerabilities using a national address dataset (Infutor data), improving the understanding of environmental migration drivers and deploying computational tools for multi-scale analysis;
 - Evaluate the viability of geo-located Twitter data for population research, emphasizing data management, mobility tracking during hurricanes, and algorithm development to highlight population movements;
 - Investigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on food assistance site visitations in Alaska using mobile phone data, focusing on data aggregation and regression modeling to examine demographic and socioeconomic influences;
 - Contribute to survey design to examine the built environment, household social and behavioral characteristics, and urban–rural disparities in response to extreme temperature events.
- **Graduate Research Assistant**, School of Civil Engineering, WHU, August 2016 to May 2019:
 - Focused on the Three Gorges Project’s social conflicts and project-induced migrant challenges, utilizing Social Network Analysis (SNA) and Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) to explore conflict mechanisms and understand migrants’ poverty and integration dynamics, data were collected from field surveys
- **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, School of Land Resource Management, HZAU, June 2014 to May 2016

- Conducted field surveys to examine the effects of farmland consolidation on fragmentation, using a case study in select Wuhan City Circle counties

RESEARCH GRANTS

- PSU Center for Social Data Analytics (C-SoDA) Accelerator. “Post-Hurricane Katrina Return Migration Decision-Making: A Big Data Analytical Approach with Infutor Data.” 1/1/2024 – 12/31/2024. PI. \$4,000.
- Pittsburg Supercomputing Center (PSC) ACCESS program. “Investigating environmental migration and community resilience using machine learning and high - resolution data integration.” 7/1/2024 – 7/31/2026. Co-PI with Guangqing Chi (PI). ACCESS Credits: 750,000.0.

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS*

- Yang Wang, Yining Feng, Qi Han, Jian Zuo, & Raufdeen Rameezdeen. (2020). Perceived discrimination of displaced people in development-induced displacement and resettlement: The role of integration. *Cities*, 101, 102692.
- Yang Wang, Yining Feng, Jian Zuo, & Raufdeen Rameezdeen. (2019). From “Traditional” to “Low carbon” urban land use: Evaluation and obstacle analysis. *Sustainable Cities and Society*, 51, 101722. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scs.2019.101722>.
- Yang Wang, Yining Feng. (2018). A review of studies on poverty and governance of involuntary resettlement for major construction projects. *Journal of Engineering Management*. 2018, 32(02):103-107. DOI:10.13991/j.cnki.jem.2018.02.019.
- Guo Zhang, Yining Feng. (2015). The Application of External Wall Insulation Technology in Rural House Building. *Shanxi Agriculture Economy*. 2015(02): 121-122.

* The First Author “Yang Wang” is my Thesis Advisor during master period

UNDER Submission

- Feng, Y., Chi, G. Disaster Migration: Evidence from meta-analysis of the literature.
- Feng, Y., Randell, H., Chi, G., Wang, Y. Social exclusion and perceived discrimination in the Three Gorges resettlement communities.
- Feng, Y., Chi, G. When do they return home? A survival analysis of return timing for natural disaster displaced migrants.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

- Feng, Y., Chi, G. Dissecting disaster-induced out-migration groups: a closer examination through clustering analysis.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

- Feng, Y., Chi, G. 2025. When Do They Return Home? A survival analysis of return timing for natural disaster displaced migrants. *Population Association of America*. Washington, DC, April 10-13, 2025.
- Feng, Y., Chi, G. 2024. Return home or relocate nearby? Displaced individuals’ post-hurricane settlement patterns in coastal communities. *Rural Sociology Society*. Madison, WI, July 24-28, 2024.
- Feng, Y., Chi, G. 2023. Natural disasters and migration responses: evidence from the Infutor data. *Rural Sociology Society*. Burlington, VT, August 2-6, 2023.

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- Feng, Y., Chi, G. 2023. Return migration and newcomers in Gulf of Mexico after Hurricane Katrina: Evidence from the Infutor data. *Population Association of America*. New Orleans, LA, April 12-15, 2023.
 - Feng, Y., Chi, G. 2021. Displacement, migration, and social vulnerability: A meta-analysis of natural disaster studies. *Rural Sociology Society*. Online. July 14-17, 2021.
 - Yang Wang, Yining Feng, Yuqiang Ning. (2017). Research on driving mechanism of urban involuntary migration poverty: Evidence from the Three Gorges Reservoir. Proceedings of the International Conference on Environment & Sustainable Development. ISBN: 978-1-943579-08-2 Kuala Lumpur-Malaysia. 10-12, August 2017. Paper ID: KLM712

AWARDS

- 2024 Demography Program Research Assistantship Award (Fall 2024), PSU
- 2024 Travel grant from National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis
- 2024 Travel grant from Polar Geospatial Center (PGC), University of Minnesota
- 2024 Dennis and Jimmie Findley Educational Enhancement Endowment, PSU
- 2019 Excellent Postgraduate, WHU
- 2018 Postgraduate Academic Scholarship, WHU
- 2016 Graduate with Honors; Enterprise Scholarship, HZAU
- 2013 China National Scholarship, China Scholarship Council
- 2012 China National Encouragement Scholarship, China Scholarship Council

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Journal Reviewer: Poverty & Public Policy

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Member of Population Association of America
Member of Rural Sociology Society

REFERENCES

Guangqing Chi (gchi@psu.edu)

OTHER DEVELOPMENT

Certificate: Associate Constructor of Municipal Engineering