

Jessie Lu

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EDUCATION

Columbia University <i>PhD</i> , Sustainable Development <i>MA</i> , Sustainable Development Fields: Environment, Development, Urban	New York, NY 2021 — Present 2024
London School of Economics <i>Visiting Research Student</i> , Department of Geography & Environment Hosting Faculty: Giles Atkinson, Frank Venmans	London, UK 2024
University of Pennsylvania <i>B.A.</i> , <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> , Anthropology (with Honors), Minor in Chemistry	Philadelphia, PA 2017

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Fenced In: Biodiversity Loss, Land Degradation, and Beef Production in Southern Africa
Damages from the Emerald Ash Borer: Invasive Species, Urban Forest Loss, and Inequality
Biodiversity as a Mediator of Drought Impacts on Dengue Rates in Brazil (*with Eyal Frank*)
Health Impacts of Urban Public Park Provision in California (*with Abigail Dow and Graeme Peterson*)

TEACHING

Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs <i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Human Ecology, Professor Jeffrey Shrader	Spring 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-instructed a required Sustainable Development PhD course focused on combining dynamic macroeconomic models with resource economics to understand topics related to economic development and sustainability. <i>Example topics covered: neoclassical growth models, endogenous growth theory, poverty traps, non-renewable resource models, renewable resource models</i>• Led weekly flipped classroom-style recitation section aimed at situating models and theoretical concepts within real world research questions. <i>Example recitation sections topics included: history of economic development, technological change, institutions, Hotelling's rule, discounting, Social Cost of Carbon, biodiversity, renewable energy</i>	
Columbia University, Department of Economics <i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Gender and Applied Economics, Professor Lena Edlund	Fall 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assisted in teaching an undergraduate economics elective examining applied economics in the context of gender, labor, and political economics• Led recitation sections reviewing research papers and their empirical methodology and findings	

SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

Harvard Kennedy School <i>Research Assistant Assistant</i> , Center for International Development	Cambridge, MA Aug. 2019 — June 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working with Professor Ricardo Hausmann, conducted economic analysis to inform policymakers in decisions related to economic growth, with a focus on understanding key barriers to growth, labor markets, and export diversification• Communicated findings with policymakers in Albania, Peru, Namibia, Colombia, and South Africa through the production of technical reports and policy memos as well as through presentations and meetings with counterparts	

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)*Independent Consultant*, Strategy and Knowledge

Cambridge, MA

Feb. 2019 — Aug. 2019

- Created a policy paper as an input to inform the agency's assessment of the efficacy of a proposed change in funding strategy by summarizing evidence from the literature on agricultural aid and providing empirical analyses of the agricultural impact of development financing institution investments

Center for Global Development*Research Assistant*, Global Health

Washington, DC

Nov. 2017 — Feb. 2019

- Conducted research to assess and improve global health policy efforts specifically related to procurement, family planning, universal health coverage, and improved data collection
- Engaged with policymakers through writing policy briefs and working papers, organizing meetings, and presenting to stakeholders

HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Center for Development Economics and Policy Student Research Grant, Columbia University 2025**Center for Environmental Economics and Policy Student Research Grant**, Columbia University 2025**Graduate Research Fellowship**, National Science Foundation 2021 — 2026**Phi Beta Kappa**, University of Pennsylvania 2017**Graduation with Departmental Honors**, Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania 2017**Dean's List**, University of Pennsylvania All semesters available**PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES**

AERE Summer Conference, New Mexico 2025**Interdisciplinary PhD Workshop in Sustainable Development**, Columbia University 2005**Environmental Economics PhD Workshop**, London School of Economics 2024**Summer School in Environmental and Energy Economics**, UC Berkeley 2024**Alliance Graduate Summer School**, Columbia Global Center, Paris 2022**TECHNICAL SKILLS**

Coding: R, Python, Stata, Google Earth Engine**Languages:** English, Mandarin**REFERENCES**

Available upon request