Sheng-Jun Xu

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Research Interests

Corporate Finance, Political Economy, Labor Economics, Household Finance, Sustainable/Climate Finance

Academic Positions

University of Alberta, Alberta School of Business Department of Finance, Assistant Professor, 2017–present.

Education

Ph.D., Finance, University of British Columbia, 2017.

B. Math Mathematics, University of Waterloo, 2008.

B.B.A., Business Administration, Wilfrid Laurier University, 2008.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

The Financial Consequences of Pretrial Detention with Pablo Slutzky. *Review of Financial Studies*, 38(11): 3329–3373, 2025.

Skilled Labor Uncertainty and Corporate Investment: Evidence from H-1B Visa Lottery Cycles. *Management Science*, 71(11): 9328–9360, 2025.

Tax Breaks for Swing States? Political Bargaining, Targeted Policies, and Firm Outcomes with Sahil Raina. *Review of Corporate Finance Studies*, forthcoming (advance access, April 2026).

Skilled Foreign Labor Supply and Corporate Investment: Evidence from H-1B Lotteries and Application Deadlines. *Journal of Corporate Finance*, 101: 103068, 2026.

Working Papers

Passing the Torch: Climate Activism, Asset Sales, and Natural Gas Flaring with Mark R. Huson

Presented at the Canadian Sustainable Finance Network Conference 2026.

Childcare Access and the Allocation of Female Human Capital Across Firms with Ting Xu and Elena Simintzi (Under review)

Presented at the Conference on Finance, Labor and Inequality 2022, UBC Summer Finance Conference 2022. Labor and Finance Group Conference 2022, WFA-CFAR Conference on Corporate Finance 2022, Colorado Finance Summit 2022, MFA Meeting 2023, FIRS Conference 2023, CICF 2023, EFA Meeting 2023, FOM Conference 2023, the Labor and Employment Relations Association ASSA Meeting 2024, NFA Meeting 2024.

The Effects of Voter Partisanship on Economic Redistribution: Evidence from Gerrymandering with Sahil Raina

A previous version of this paper titled "Trading Credit (Subsidies) for Votes: The Effect of Local Politics on Small Business Lending" was presented at the Paris December Finance Meeting 2019, ASU Sonoran Winter Finance Conference 2020, Finance Down Under 2020, Northeastern Finance Conference 2020, WFA Meeting 2020, EFA Meeting 2020.

Older/Inactive Papers

Politics and Hidden Borrowing: Electoral Cycles and State Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Presented at the WFA Meeting 2017

Conference Activity

Presentations

Conferences at which I was the presenter. Venues listed under Working Papers also include presentations by coauthors.

2027 AEA Meeting, Washington, D.C. (scheduled)

2026 Canadian Sustainable Finance Conference, Edmonton, AB

2025 Western Finance Association Meeting, Snowbird, UT

2024 UQAM Finance Workshop, Montreal, QC

2024 Northern Finance Association Meeting, Montreal, QC

2023 New Finance Conference, Toronto, ON

2023 Rotman Junior Finance Conference, Toronto, ON

2023 Transatlantic Conference on the Economics of Crime, Ann Arbor, MI

2023 Midwest Finance Association Meeting, Chicago, IL

2022 Colorado Finance Summit, Vail, CO

2022 Labor and Finance Group Meeting, Atlanta, GA

2021 European Finance Association Meeting, Virtual

2021 China International Conference in Finance, Virtual

2020 Paris December Finance Meeting, Virtual

2020 Western Finance Association Meeting, Virtual

2020 ASU Sonoran Winter Finance Conference, Scottsdale, AZ

2018 American Finance Association Meeting, Philadelphia, PA

2017 Alberta Finance Institute Conference, Lake Louise, AB

2017 Northern Finance Association Meeting, Halifax, NS

2017 Western Finance Association Meeting, Whistler, BC

2017 Society for Financial Studies Cavalcade, Nashville, TN

Discussions

2025 Financial Management Association Asia Meeting, Taipei, Taiwan

2025 Financial Management Association Meeting, Vancouver, BC

2025 Northern Finance Association Meeting, Calgary, AB

2025 Second UIC Finance Conference, Chicago, IL

2025 Citrus Finance Conference, Riverside, CA

2024 Financial Management Association Meeting, Grapevine, TX

2024 Northern Finance Association Meeting, Montreal, QC

2023 Financial Management Association Meeting, Chicago, IL

2023 Midwest Finance Association Meeting, Chicago, IL

2022 Northern Finance Association Meeting, Banff, AB

2020 Financial Management Association Meeting, Virtual

2020 Midwest Finance Association Meeting, Virtual

2019 Northern Finance Association Meeting, Vancouver, BC

2019 China International Conference in Finance, Guangzhou, China

2018 Financial Management Association Meeting, San Diego, CA

2018 Northern Finance Association Meeting, Charlevoix, QC

2018 UBC Summer Finance Conference, Vancouver, BC

2017 Financial Management Association Meeting, Boston, MA

Seminars

2025	Statistics Canada Economic and Social Analysis and Modelling Division
2024	University of Toronto, University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University, McMaster University, University of Calgary
2023	City University of Hong Kong
2017	Université Laval, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, University of Toronto, HEC Montréal, University of Alberta

Service

Referee: Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, Management Science, Journal of the European Economic Association, Review of Corporate Finance Studies, Journal of Corporate Finance, Financial Management, Corporate Governance: An International Review, Financial Review, Journal of Pension Economics and Finance, Asia-Pacific Journal of Financial Studies, Managerial Finance.

Conference Program Committee: Northern Finance Association (2019, 2022), Midwest Finance Association Meeting (2021, 2022, 2023).

Organizer: PhD student pre-seminar discussion, University of Alberta, 2017–2022.

Committee member: PhD dissertation defence committee (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2025), PhD second year paper review committee (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2026), Library committee (2018–2019), Assurance of Learning committee (2025–present)

Grants & Fellowships

Insight Development Grant (Co-Applicant), SSHRC, 2027–2029.

Insight Development Grant (Principal Investigator), SSHRC, 2026–2028.

Edmonton Journal Faculty Research Fellowship, Alberta School of Business, 2021–2022.

Productivity Partnership, SSHRC, 2020–2021.

EFF-SAS Grant, University of Alberta, 2019–2020.

Canadian Utilities Faculty Research Fellowship, Alberta School of Business, 2017–2018.

Scholarships & Awards

WFA Cubist Systematic Strategies Ph.D. Candidate Award, 2017.

Four Year Fellowship for PhD Students, UBC, 2013–2016.

Dean Earle D. MacPhee Memorial Fellowship, UBC, 2011–2015.

Shelby L. Brumelle Memorial Graduate Scholarship, UBC, 2012–2013.

Killam Doctoral Scholarship, The Killam Trusts, 2012.

Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Program Doctoral Scholarship, SSHRC, 2012.

Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Program Master's Scholarship, SSHRC, 2011.

Teaching

University of Alberta

Mergers, Restructuring, and Corporate Control (FIN 473/673), 2024–present.

Corporate Financial Planning (FIN 430), 2018–2021, 2024–present.

Capital Investment (FIN 422), 2018–2025.

Undergraduate supervisor (FIN 480), 2020–2021.

University of British Columbia

Applied Financial Markets (COMM 374), 2014.

Miscellaneous

Coding: Stata, LaTeX, Python, SAS, MATLAB.

Languages: English (fluent), French (novice), Mandarin (intermediate).