

Sheng-Jun Xu

University of Alberta
Alberta School of Business
2-32D Business Building
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2R6

Phone: (780) 492-8057
Office: 2-32D
Email: sxu7@ualberta.ca
Homepage: www.sj-xu.com

Research Interests

Corporate Finance, Political Economy, Labor Economics, Household Finance

Academic Positions

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

Education

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

Dissertation Title: “Essays in Corporate Finance, Labour Economics, and Political Economy”

Committee: Hernan Ortiz-Molina (Chair), Elena Simintzi, Robert Heinkel, Ralph Winter

B. Math Mathematics, University of Waterloo, 2008.

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

Published/Accepted Papers

The Financial Consequences of Pretrial Detention with Pablo Slutzky (Review of Financial Studies)

Skilled Labor Uncertainty and Corporate Investment: Evidence from H-1B Visa Lottery Cycles (Management Science)

Working Papers

The Effect of Universal Child Care on Employee Productivity and Firm Performance with Ting Xu and Elena Simintzi (R&R, Journal of Finance)

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, and the Labor and Employment Relations Association ASSA Meeting 2024.

Skilled Foreign Labor Supply and Corporate Investment: Evidence from H-1B Lotteries and Application Deadlines (R&R, Journal of Corporate Finance)

Previous versions of the paper titled “Skilled Foreign Workers and Corporate Investment: Evidence from the H-1B Visa Program” and “Skilled Labor Rationing, Hiring Uncertainty, and Corporate Investment: Evidence from H-1B Visa Application Deadlines” were presented at SFS Cavalcade 2017, NFA Meeting 2017, AFA Meeting 2018, Paris December Finance Meeting 2020, CICF 2021, EFA Meeting 2021.

Tax Breaks for Swing States? Political Bargaining, Targeted Policies, and Firm Outcomes with Sahil Raina (R&R, Review of Corporate Finance Studies)

Presented at the 18th Annual Conference on Corporate Finance Early Ideas session, City University of Hong Kong research seminar (2023), University of Toronto external brown bag (2024), University of Waterloo research seminar (2024), Wilfrid Laurier research seminar (2024), McMaster University research seminar (2024), University of Calgary research seminar (2024), and WFA Meeting 2025.

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.

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

Presented at the WFA Meeting 2017

Conference Activity

2025 Financial Management Association Meeting, Vancouver, BC (Discussant)
2025 Norther Finance Association Meeting, Calgary, AB (Discussant)
2025 Western Finance Association Meeting, Snowbird, UT (Presenter)
2025 Second UIC Finance Conference, Chicago, IL (Discussant)
2025 Citrus Finance Conference, Riverside, CA (Discussant)
2024 Financial Management Association Meeting, Grapevine, TX (Discussant)
2024 UQAM Finance Workshop, Montreal, QC (Presenter)
2024 Northern Finance Association Meeting, Montreal, QC (Presenter and Discussant)
2023 Financial Management Association Meeting, Chicago, IL (Discussant)
2023 New Finance Conference, Toronto, ON (Presenter)
2023 Rotman Junior Finance Conference, Toronto, ON (Presenter)
2023 Transatlantic Conference on the Economics of Crime, Ann Arbor, MI (Presenter)
2023 Midwest Finance Association Meeting, Chicago, IL (Discussant and Presenter)
2022 Colorado Finance Summit, Vail, CO (Presenter)
2022 Northern Finance Association Meeting, Banff, AB (Discussant)

2022 Labor and Finance Group Meeting, Atlanta, GA (Presenter)

2021 European Finance Association Meeting, Zoom (Presenter)

2021 China International Conference in Finance, Zoom (Presenter)

2020 Paris December Finance Meeting, Zoom (Presenter)

2020 Financial Management Association Meeting, Zoom (Discussant)

2020 Midwest Finance Association Meeting, Zoom (Discussant)

2020 Western Finance Association Meeting, Zoom (Presenter)

2020 ASU Sonoran Winter Finance Conference, Scottsdale, AZ (Presenter)

2019 Northern Finance Association Meeting, Vancouver, BC (Discussant).

2019 China International Conference in Finance, Guangzhou, China (Discussant).

2018 Financial Management Association Meeting, San Diego, CA (Discussant).

2018 Northern Finance Association Meeting, Charlevoix, QC (Discussant).

2018 UBC Summer Finance Conference, Vancouver, BC (Discussant).

2018 American Finance Association Meeting, Philadelphia, PA (Presenter).

2017 Alberta Finance Institute Conference, Lake Louise, AB (Presenter).

2017 Financial Management Association Meeting, Boston, MA (Discussant).

2017 Northern Finance Association Meeting, Halifax, NS (Presenter).

2017 Western Finance Association Meeting, Whistler, BC (Presenter).

2017 Society for Financial Studies Cavalcade, Nashville, TN (Presenter).

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

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 member (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022).

Honors & Awards

Insight Development Grant, 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.

Endowment Fund for the Future: Support for the Advancement of Scholarship Award, University of Alberta, 2019-2020.

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

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), Winter 2014.

Miscellaneous

Coding: Stata, L^AT_EX, Python, SAS, Matlab.

Languages: English fluent, French novice, Mandarin intermediate.