

AGST Overseas Challenge Programme 2018

International Affairs Office,
Graduate School of Economics,
Kyoto University



Contents

Applicant list	1
Application Guidelines	5
ZHOU Yue.....	9
ZHANG Tuo	14
LIU Yan.....	18
EKO HERU Prasetyo	23
ZHAO Yameng.....	28
GRAMLICH Julie Taeko.....	34
WANG Yiming	39
YU Mengxing.....	48

Applicant list

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Nameb. Affiliationc. Destination countryd. Host university / institutione. Research titlef. Period of the trip |
|--|

①

- a. ZHOU Yue
- b. 2nd year master course, EA programme
- c. China
- d. Wuhan University
- e. Transit system and urban expansion
- f. 3rd September 2018 to 25th September 2018

②

- a. ZHANG Tuo
- b. 3rd year doctoral course, EA programme
- c. The Netherlands
- d. Environmental Science department at Radboud University
- e. Future Technological Transition Model and Its Application for Policy Assessment of Green Transition in Japanese Power Industry
- f. 8th October 2018 to 14th November 2018

③

- a. LIU Yan
- b. 1st year doctoral course
- c. United Kingdom
- d. University College London
- e. Dynamic treatment assignment rules using machine learning
- f. 7th January 2019 to 18th March 2019

④

- a. EKO HERU Prasetyo
- b. 2nd year master course, EA programme
- c. Indonesia
- d. Institute for Development Economics and Finance, Go-Jek, PPM School of Management, LimaKilo, Sacita Muda, Pinjam, Bonceng ID, BukaLapak, Stoqo, Tokopedia, Kumparan
- e. Digital Innovation and Informal Economy: Case of Start-Ups in Indonesia
- f. 2nd February 2019 to 1st March 2019

⑤

- a. ZHAO Yameng
- b. 2nd year master course, EA programme
- c. China
- d. Hubei Provincial Library, Guizhou Provincial Library, Sichuan Provincial Library, Sichuan International Studies University, Shanghai University
- e. Field Research to the typical Third-front areas: Hubei, Guizhou, and Sichuan.
- f. 3rd February 2019 to 28th February 2019

⑥

- a. GRAMLICH Julie Taeko
- b. 2nd year master course, EA programme
- c. Denmark
- d. Copenhagen School of Entrepreneurship , Copenhagen Business School, TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF DENMARK
- e. A Cross-Cultural Study of Japan and Denmark's Government Policies that Positively Impact Women's Empowerment
- f. 13th February 2019 to 12th March 2019

⑦

- a. WANG Yiming
- b. 3rd year doctoral course, EA programme
- c. China
- d. Henan University, Chenzhuang Village, Xidan Village, Shierlihe Village
- e. Production and Reproduction of Chinese Peasant Farmers under the Industrialization, Urbanization and Agricultural Modernization: Case study on peasant agricultural production in the Major Grain Producing Area
- f. 21st February 2019 to 10th March 2019

⑧

- a. YU Mengxing
- b. 2nd year doctoral course, EA programme
- c. China
- d. Zhejiang Technical Association of Paper Industry, Gold East Paper, Suzhou Creek Industrial Civilization Museum, Shanghai Municipal History Museum, Shanghai Tianzhang Jilu Zhichang, Fuyang Hand-made Bamboo Paper Workshop.
- e. The pulp and paper industry in Yangtze River Delta Economic Zone
- f. 17th February 2019 to 2nd March 2019

Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University
AGST Overseas Challenge Programme 2018

Application Guidelines

1. Purpose and Outline

The AGST Overseas Challenge Programme aims to provide students from Kyoto University's Graduate School of Economics (GSE) with a unique opportunity to advance their research projects by spending time abroad gathering information and exchanging with experts in their field of study. The Programme is run by the Asian Platform for Global Sustainability & Transcultural Studies (AGST), Social Sciences and Humanities Unit – which is part of Kyoto University's "Japan Gateway" Project.

Past Programme participants have come away with new insights and perspectives as a result of their engagement in various activities, such as meeting faculty members at overseas universities and receiving academic guidance on their dissertations; carrying out field research; collecting data at institutions and libraries; and interviewing officials from government agencies, businesses and NGOs.

There are no specific preferences or restrictions in terms of research topic, host university or institution, and the country where the research activities will take place. Programme participants are expected to rigorously carry out activities in a way that contributes to their ongoing research. Thus, applicants' research plan should be designed accordingly.

Prior to applying, students must specify the purpose and actual research activities to be conducted in the destination. All the applications will be screened by the AGST committee from the GSE on the basis of the submitted research proposal to determine eligibility. If selected, students must receive a formal acceptance from their host researcher(s) or contact person(s) who has (have) agreed to provide academic support and/or guidance for students' research activities during the entire period of being at the destination. Simultaneously students will be required to make all the necessary arrangements for the implementation of their research plan, including the contacts and appointments with the person/organization to investigate.

※Participants will not receive academic credits upon completing this programme.

2. Extent of the Financial Support

Financial support is available to help cover travel and accommodation fees. The following expenses are covered by the Programme:

(1) A round-trip airline ticket between Osaka and the first/last destination.

[The International Affairs Office (IAO-GSE) will arrange and purchase the ticket based on Kyoto University regulations].

(2) Accommodation fees.

This will be provided only for the days in which research activities are scheduled. The maximum number of days per month that participants can receive financial support for their accommodation fees is 20. The maximum amount per day that can be received is 4,000 JPY. Therefore, the maximum amount per month is 80,000 JPY (4,000 JPY x 20 days).

[Participants are responsible for arranging and paying for their accommodations, and upon returning to Kyoto University, they will be reimbursed based on their actual research schedule.]

3. Eligibility requirements

Before applying to the Programme, interested students and supervisors should carefully read and understand the terms and conditions stated in the Participant's Pledge (Form 6).

Applicants must:

- a. Be a student of Kyoto University's GSE;
- b. Carry out research activities related to their research project that is currently being carried out at Kyoto University;
- c. Focus entirely on this Programme's research activities without interruption during the scheduled period;
- d. Obtain permission from their supervisor at Kyoto University to apply for this Programme;
- e. Have the required skill set, including a good command of English or the language to be used at the destination, to carry out the research activities;
- f. Carefully review the conditions of other grants or scholarships that they receive (if applicable) in order to avoid any conflicts that may prevent them from fulfilling the requirements of this Programme ; and
- g. Adhere to all the guideline provisions.

4. Requirements for Programme participants

If selected, Programme participants must adhere to all terms and conditions. If they do not uphold the Participant's Pledge, they may be asked to recover all funding received.

Programme participants must:

- a. Submit all the required documents stated in Section 10 within the time specified;

- b. Make their flight arrangements through the IAO-GSE. All flights should depart from and return to Osaka (Kansai or Itami International Airport). If the participant changes or cancels a flight due to personal reasons after the ticket has been issued, all the handling fees shall be charged to him/her;
- c. Make their own accommodation arrangements and complete other necessary tasks, such as obtaining a visa (if needed);
- d. Purchase overseas travel insurance (Futai Kaigaku) at their own expense for the entire period of their stay, including the date they depart Japan and the date they return to Japan; and
- e. Submit a report to the IAO-GSE within two weeks of returning to Kyoto University.

5. Duration and commencement of the Programme

The minimum period of actual research activity is eight (8) days and a maximum is ninety (90) days.

Research trip must be carried out between 1st August 2018 and 10th March 2019.

The exact travelling dates will be determined following the arranging process with the IAO-GSE.

6. Application document

Send the **Application Form (Form 1)** in both hard and electronic copies during the application period.

7. Application Period

Applications will be accepted starting 1st June until 25th June 2018.

8. Number of recipients

Approximately seven (7) students will be selected.

9. Screening

The screening and selection process is conducted by the AGST committee, consisting of several faculty members from the GSE. Only successful applicants will be notified.

The screening and selection process can take one (1) week. The applicants may be requested to provide further information if needed. Any inquiries regarding application status are not acceptable during this period.

10. Documents to be submitted upon acceptance

Once accepted to the Programme, participants must submit the following documents at least six (6) weeks before their departure date. Failing to do so may result in a rejection to be dispatched to the destination:

- a. Research Proposal (Form 2) ;
- b. Research Schedule (Form 3) ;
- c. Evidence to support the scheduled activities stated in Form 3, letters, copies of communication by e-mail, or exchanges by app.;
- d. Letter of Support (Form 4): from the researcher(s) at the participants' host university/institution, or the contact person who will provide advice on your field work;
- e. 推薦理由書 (Form 5): from supervisor at Kyoto University;
- f. A copy of passport;
- g. A copy of hotel reservation (if applicable);
- h. A copy of overseas travel insurance certificate; and
- i. Participant's Pledge (Form 6).

After completing the Programme, participants must submit the following:

- j. Boarding passes of the entire flight route arranged by the IAO-GSE;
- k. Completion Report (Form 7).

11. Contact Information

Applications are to be submitted to the following address:

International Affairs Office

Faculty of Law and Faculty of Economics East Bldg., 2nd Floor

Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University

Tel: 075-753-3476

E-mail: iao.econ@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Note: Personal information about the applicants will only be used for the intended purpose and will not be disclosed to third parties.

Transit system and urban expansion

ZHOU Yue

Executive Summary

During this three week field research at Wuhan, I collected data for my future research; communicated with experts in the field of urban economics; visited the Wuhan city to have a better understanding of China's urbanization. In this process, I got a lot of help from Prof. Wang Haijun, a professor of Wuhan University. He not only gave me advice on my research, but also helped me to find sufficient data to do my research. In the process of field investigation, I noticed a lot of things I had never noticed before. For example, the problem of downtown village in China's cities. Overall this field research was conducted as planned.

Research Trip Details

(1) Objectives and Significance

In the three weeks' research trip, I mainly focused on data collection. Because my research proposal is about mass transit system and urban expansion, the data I want to collect could be divided into two parts: one part is remote sensing data, including remote sensing image of Wuhan, land usage and land cover change image of Wuhan, etc. The other part of data includes economic data, population data. The other mission for me is to communicate with professors and graduate (doctoral) students. I learned a lot from such interviews and workshops. Besides, I also left two days to do a field research at border area of Wuhan (the largest city of central China) and Tianmen (a county near Wuhan). Even if I was born and grew up in China, I seldom went to such places, and by doing this field research, I got a direct view about China's urban expansion instead of only from data.

(2) Methods and Strategies

The main strategies I took was searching for literature, including papers, year books, etc. I downloaded such literature from the website and read them, and then extract the useful information and data. Besides, I also interviewed experts in the field of urban economics, and listened to their advice.

(3) Schedule and Activities

Date September		Visiting Institute/organization	Research activities
3	Mon	Wuhan University	Communicate with Prof. Wang, professor of Wuhan University
4	Tue	Wuhan University	Communicate with Prof. Wang, professor of Wuhan University
5	Wed	Wuhan University	Data collection
6	Thu	Wuhan University	Data collection
7	Fri	Border land of Wuhan city	Field investigation
8	Sat	Literature review	
9	Sun	Central China Normal University	Workshop with graduate and doctor students
10	Mon	Wuhan University	Workshop with graduate and doctor students
11	Tue	Wuhan University	Data collection
12	Wed	Wuhan University	Data collection
13	Thu	Wuhan University	Data collection
14	Fri	Wuhan University	Data collection
15	Sat	Literature review	
16	Sun	Wuhan University	Data collection
17	Mon	Wuhan University	Data collection
18	Tue	Border land of Tianmen city	Field investigation
19	Wed	Wuhan University	Data collection
20	Thu	Wuhan University	Data collection
21	Fri	Wuhan University	Data collection
22	Sat	Wuhan University	Communicate with Prof. Wang, about my achievements in the period of this challenging program
23	Sun	China University of Geosciences	Workshop with graduate and doctor students
24	Mon	Literature review	
25	Tue	Return to Kyoto	

(4) Results and Significance

Collecting related data is important for me to conduct my own research, and I think by this trip, I had got relatively a lot of raw data. If I stay in Japan, I could hardly get such information that I need, and I could only get some data from the papers that other people had already processed. Besides, a lot of data have no e-version, such as yearbooks. So that I have to go to the university or institution that has such yearbooks to collect data. This program gave me a chance to go back to China and collect the needed data for my research, which is very helpful. By the data I collected, I plan to build an econometric model and then write a paper.

Future Perspective

(1) Objectives

Objectives achieved: communicating with scholars in the field of urban economics.

Reason: I participated in three workshops and talked with other students. At the same time, I talked with Prof. Wang several times during the field research. Such communication is helpful to my own research work.

Objective not achieved: data collection was not fully completed.

Reason: After I went China and started my research work, I found it was not as easy as I thought. Three weeks is still too short for me to get all the data I need. For example, I did not get the housing price of Wuhan, which is a pity. In the future, I plan to go to China again to collect such housing price data to do my research.

(2) Lessons learned

If I conduct a field research next time, I will go to the field more, instead of stay in the library all the time. Besides, I feel this time, my schedule is too tight, I hope I could get enough time to conduct my next field research.

Pictures taken from the field research



Library of Wuhan University



School of Resource and Environmental Science, WHU



China University of Geosciences



Central China Normal University



Night scene of Wuhan



Night scene of Wuhan



a downtown village of Wuhan

Future Technological Transition Model and Its Application for Policy Assessment of Green Transition in Japanese Power Industry

ZHANG Tuo

Executive Summary

From this September to October, I took part in the AGST overseas challenge program to conduct research for my PhD dissertation at Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands. The core purpose of this field trip is to learn a novel Integrate Assessment model for climate change, and to design and evaluate the impacts of climate policy in east Asian region

During my stay in the Department of Environmental Science, Prof. Dr. Jean-Francis Mercure, as well as the researchers in the lab, provided me lots of guidance on my study. I took a course on *Energy Modeling* by Prof. Mercure; had a nice discussion with the IPCC scientists in Radboud University on the special report of global warming of 1.5°C; attended a lunch seminar given by researchers on low carbon assessment of novel technologies, such as electric vehicles.

What's more important, I gradually learnt how to build assessment models based on the E3ME-FTT methods, with the help of researchers in Prof. Mercure's lab. A model has been set up, several policy scenarios concerning the Eastern Asian region has been tested based on this model. The preliminary results show that, compared with the EU countries the endeavor that is focused on carbon mitigation in Eastern Asian countries are weaker. According to the simulation, although the governments have set up ambitious goals for renewables, the current climate policy mix may fail to fill the gap between the targets and the reality. Meanwhile, ignorance of coordination among different instruments would hurt the efficiency of climate change policies.

It is a pity that this field trip was shortened due to unpredictable reason. I did not accomplished all the scheduled targets, for example, the interpretation of the simulation results and the paperwork for my PhD. thesis. However, I shall continue to keep contact with professors and researcher in Radboud University Nijmegen, and carry on my study in this field. I am confident to finish the research proposal before the end of next January.

Research Trip Details

(1) Objectives and Significance

Technological innovation and diffusion play central roles in the sustainable development of power sectors, especially under the context of low carbon transition. In this research, by using the novel Future Technological Transition model, various combinations of low carbon policies, including the carbon tax, Feed-in-Tariffs, would be analyzed, in order to figure out the most dynamically efficient policy mix. Furthermore, taking into account the current nuclear phase-

out plan in East Asian region, this study would investigate its impact on the green transitions in power sectors.

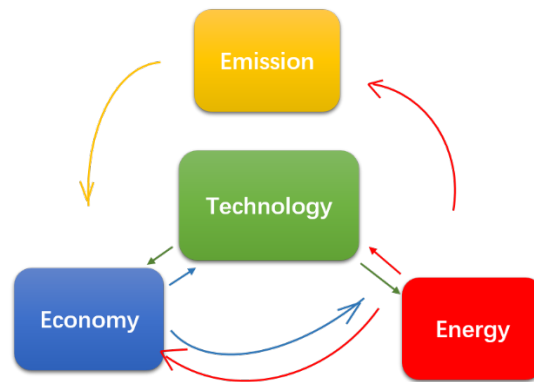


Figure 1 Framework and Feedbacks in E3ME-FTT

My doctoral research focuses on the induced technological change for the environment. To be specific, my study proposes to investigate the optimal climate policy mix in order to promote the environmental friendly technological change, with particular focus on oligopolistic competitions in power industry. Therefore, IAM (Integrated Assessment Modeling) is an inevitable part for my doctoral research. E3ME-FTT model is the ideal model because of its focused on technology.

(2) Methods and Strategies

Three steps would be taken in order to accomplish the above objectives:

First, with the help of Prof. Mercure, I plan to build a dynamic model on innovations and substitutions for the green technologies in power industries in Japan, with special focus on the nuclear phase-out.

Second, mathematical methods would be designed to help figure out the optimal policy mix, taking into account the induced technological effects. Based on this optimization, I shall characterize the most dynamically effective climate policy mix.

Finally, social welfare gain/loss of corresponding policy mix under several scenarios would be calculated. Therefore, this research would help the policymakers to design and assess proper/optimal climate policy mix, through the simulation based on novel E3ME-FTT model.

(3) Schedule and Activities

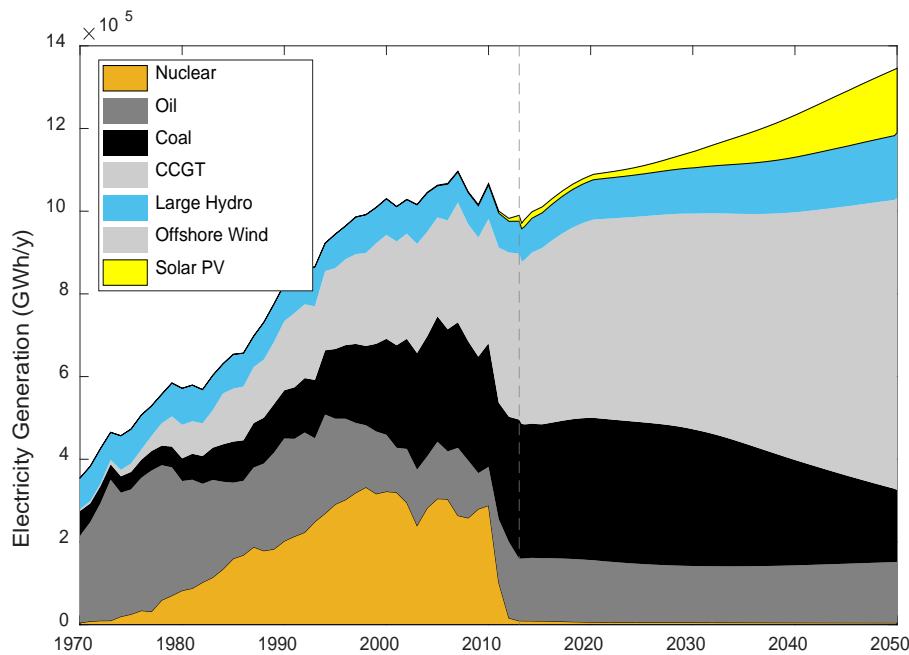
Date	Activities
Oct 8-Oct 15	E3ME-FTT modeling using Fortran 95, get familiar with the programming, as well as the structure of the IAM model
Oct 16-Oct 26	Data Collection: historical data on technological substitutions in power industries in East Asian countries
Oct 26- Nov 12	Preliminary simulations and afterwards, the preliminary interpretations of the results
Oct 17	Discussions with IPCC scientists on the latest special technical report, and their experience of attending the negotiations among various countries and organizations.
Oct 24	Lunch Seminar on lifetime assessment of EVs in carbon mitigation by Florian
Oct 29, Nov 5, Nov 12	Regular <i>Courses on Energy Modeling</i> , and Computer Simulation in the Lab

(4) Results and Significance

A model has been set up, several policy scenarios concerning the Eastern Asian region has been tested based on this model.

The preliminary results show that, compared with the EU countries the endeavor that is focused on carbon mitigation in Eastern Asian countries are weaker. According to the simulation, although the governments have set up ambitious goals for renewables, the current climate policy mix may fail to fill the gap between the targets and the reality. Meanwhile, ignorance of coordination among different instruments would hurt the efficiency of climate change policies.

Furthermore, several pathways for green transitions are designed. For example, Figure 1 illustrates a feasible optimal pathway for the green transitions in Japan. Compared with the current policy mix, this pathway provides a possibility for energy production without the reoperations of nuclear stations. The share of nuclear power would be replaced by the solar power and wind power. Although in the first several years, higher carbon tax and feed in tariffs are needed in order to promote the startups of renewable energies, the gradual maturities and cost reductions would prevent the loss, and eventually benefit the low carbon transitions in power industry.



Future Perspective

(1) Objectives

Generally speaking, I reached my objectives during this field trips. The basic aim is to learn the IAM and build assessment model on the eastern Asian regions, which had been finished before I left the Netherlands. Some works still need to be done in order to interpret the results. I hope to submit a paper to an academic journal such as Energy Policy.

There is also some bonus during the trip. I was lucky to meet the IPCC scientists and got updated with their latest work. The research culture in Radboud University also impressed me a lot!

(2) Lessons learned

- Always prepare in advance. Take accommodation as an example. Similar as it is in Japan, in the Netherlands the dormitories are always full and you need to wait for a longer time until you find your proper accommodation. Therefore, don't hesitate to reach for help from your friends in the host universities as soon as your proposals are approved by the commission.
- Team work: Keep open and curious to various topics, and be good at communications. Distinct from the East Asian culture, in Dutch universities, discussions are the daily necessities during the lunch time, coffee time, etc. You would find communications much helpful to you and the others.

Dynamic treatment assignment rules using machine learning

LIU Yan

Executive Summary

The initial aim of the research trip was to develop a new econometric method to dynamically choose optimal treatment assignment based on observed data. Intrigued by the Empirical Welfare Maximization (EWM) method proposed by Kitagawa and Tetenov (2018), I seek to extend this method to a dynamic framework, where the policy maker adaptively learns treatment rules by utilizing the information gathered from previous assignments. I plan to borrow the bandit methodology from machine learning, which can effectively discard suboptimal treatments in parallel with treatment assignments. Therefore, I visited the Department of Economics, University College London (UCL) to undertake a short period of research supervised by Professor Toru Kitagawa. With his support, I had access to abundant learning and research resources at UCL. More importantly, I gained valuable inspirations from discussion with him on my research plan, which motivated me to study the unresolved issue of intertemporal fairness and welfare improvement in dynamic treatment assignment.

Research Trip Details

(1) Objectives and Significance

The main objective of the research trip is to explore innovations at the intersection of microeconometrics and machine learning to compose a part of my doctoral thesis. In order to develop a widely acceptable econometric method, it is crucial to construct precise technical arguments based on comprehension of the latest developments of econometrics and mathematical statistics. UCL is an ideal place for its vibrant econometricians and vigorous research activities. In particular, Professor Toru Kitagawa is an expert in statistical treatment rules and is actively studying the application of machine learning methods to the field of econometrics. Therefore, his mentoring and advice can play an indispensable role in pursuing my research.

(2) Methods and Strategies

I considered developing a dynamic version of the EWM approach of Kitagawa and Tetenov (2018) using batched contextual bandits. It turned out that the typical analysis of bandit algorithms apply straightforwardly to the setting of dynamic treatment assignment when there are no restrictions on treatment assignment rules. Nonetheless, in practical implementations, feasible treatment assignment rules are often subject to ethical, legislative, or political concerns as well as budget or capacity constraints. In order to extend the analysis to a realistic setting that is more relevant to

economics, Professor Kitagawa advised me to get insights from the study of fairness in reinforcement learning.

I also noticed that when it comes to observational studies in which the treatment assignment is not under the control of the experimenter, the EWM approach fails to achieve the uniformly optimal welfare regret bounds. On the other hand, several studies connected the semiparametric efficiency literature to the offline policy learning problem. I discussed this issue with Professor Kitagawa. He encouraged me to apply the similar idea to the online policy learning framework using bandits.

Following the advice received from Professor Kitagawa, I adjusted my research plan to focus on the issue of intertemporal fairness and welfare improvement through semiparametrically efficient scoring techniques in dynamic treatment assignment. I began to read related literature and met regularly with Professor Kitagawa to further discuss the technical details.

(3) Schedule and Activities

During my stay at UCL, I had regular meetings with Professor Kitagawa. I reported my research progress and got feedback from him. Because he is familiar with various econometric theories and is currently engaged in research on the collaboration of econometrics and machine learning, his advice was very helpful and enlightening.

I also participated in a weekly reading group led by Professor Kitagawa. We read a book on a machine learning method called boosting and tried to explore its possible application to my research. I presented one important chapter and discussed some technical issues with the attendees including Professor Kitagawa and Professor Tetenov. This reading group, although not directly related, offered me a new perspective on my current research project.

Aside from the above activities, I audited several courses provided by the master program of UCL's Economics department, including Econometrics, Time-series Econometrics and Empirical Industrial Organization. I also attended various economics seminars, such as cemmap seminar, IFS seminar and theory seminar as well as the intensive job talks during January and February. It was thrilling to get to know these excellent researchers and job market candidates and to be exposed to the latest developments of economics research.

(4) Results and Significance

Through this research trip, I made progress in my intended research project in the sense that I made necessary adjustments to my research plan, conducted a comprehensive literature review and completed proofs of main theoretical results. Based on these results complemented by simulations and empirical applications, I expect to complete one chapter of my Ph.D. dissertation this year. Now I submitted a draft paper to the 2019 Asian Meeting of Econometric Society as a conference paper.

Future Perspective

(1) Objectives

Overall, the research trip was successful because almost all my objectives were fulfilled. I benefited a lot from Professor Kitagawa's mentoring. Thanks to his valuable advice and comments, I was able to discover more interesting topics regarding my intended research project. I also benefited from the abundant learning and research resource at UCL, which equipped me with a broad research perspective and solid knowledge of econometrics. However, my research paper remains uncompleted because I added several new topics to my research plan so that it took more time to collect and understand the related literature.

(2) Lessons learned

Although I have already gained a lot from this research trip, there are still some ways in which I can make better use of my stay at UCL. For example, I think I could have spared time to audit courses and attend seminars of the department of Statistical Science as well. Besides, I think I could have sought for opportunities to present my previous research in time series econometrics. These experiences can also be beneficial as long as I fulfill the main objectives of my research trip.



UCL Main Library



UCL Department of Economics (Drayton House)



Auto-icon of Jeremy Bentham (UCL's spiritual founder)



Common room for Ph.D. students



my presentation at the reading group

Digital Innovation and Informal Economy: Case of Start-Ups in Indonesia

EKO HERU Prasetyo

Executive Summary

Recently, the term “startup” has been a top search on the internet as many people are curious on the idea of what startup is. In Indonesia, the term became popular when Go-Jek launched a mobile application in 2015 that allowed people to book a motorbike taxi by just clicking the button through smartphones. Despite being a country with law enforcement issues, the number of startups in Indonesia kept raising which made it on the top list of the home of startups in the world. While previous studies mainly highlighted how nascent business was born in such a supportive ecosystem, the case in Indonesia remains untouched.

This study aimed to understand how innovative people in Indonesia recognized the opportunity to start a business with advanced technology information; and how they can overcome the legality issues in the informal economy era using the technology. To answer these questions, several interviews, both semi-structured and open discussions, were performed to collect data. During a four-week fieldwork mission in Jakarta and Bandung, Indonesia, it gave a chance to conduct participant observation in a business incubator, a social enterprise to be exact, to learn the basic idea of creating a business or startup.

Challenges were inevitable as some companies rejected the research proposal. Thus, snowball sampling was attempted to attain more potential people as informants. After interviewing one person, they usually were asked if they could recommend another approachable party. It resulted in 19 interviews in total that will be analyzed later for thesis report submission. Although the interviews could not capture one or two most important things due to sensitive issues, overall, the fieldwork has been performed successfully and generated meaningful data.

Research Trip Details

(1) Objectives and Significance

Following some reports, Indonesia is on the top list among the countries worldwide to be the home of startups. Digital innovation has empowered entrepreneurship in Indonesia to create businesses. The emergence of the technology-driven new business model provides a potential avenue to blur the line between formal and informal economy. While previous research mostly focused on business development, little concern on how entrepreneurs would benefit from the informal sectors utilized the internet of things innovation. Thus, it is promising to further explore the issues to get a deeper understanding about entrepreneurship in emerging countries, especially in Indonesia.

Having performed fieldwork for roughly four weeks in Indonesia has enabled a more profound understanding of what has been happening on the ground. I gained a lot of information and knowledge from several key players who have been actively involved in the startup ecosystem in Indonesia. Being able to meet the founders and CEO was challenging opportunities since they provided notable thoughts on how they could set up the business in a country where law enforcement remains low. It is critical to search on how institutional voids would affect the behavior of startups in Indonesia.

(2) Methods and Strategies

The study was started by doing archival research about startups in Indonesia. Previously, the research was mainly focused on the ride-hailing service provider, Go-Jek Indonesia, but the startup rejected the research proposal. There was no particular reason why it was rejected but the team said they did not approve any research request for indefinite time period. Upon considering some circumstances, I widened the spectrum of research which would be discussing technology-driven startups and informal economy. It was difficult to adjust the research plan and objectives.

In the beginning, an attempt to contact other possible startups had been conducted through email searching and LinkedIn profile finder. Once startup companies confirmed whether or not they were willing to be interviewed, the schedule was set up including the representatives meeting place. Most of the time when the interview finished, I would ask if he or she could recommend another party who is fit for the topic. In the end, snowball sampling was the most suitable method to find informants and gather relevant data that are useful for the research.

(3) Schedule and Activities

Despite being rejected by Go-Jek for conducting research there, I managed to interview two critical persons during the development stage of Go-Jek. The first one is the co-founder of Go-Jek who is currently doing his own business and project. Although he resigned from the company last year, I captured the story of how Go-Jek got started. Another one is a member of the early founding team of Go-Jek who is a VP now. I was able to meet some people who are working there as well to learn about the culture of the startup and how they perceive the startup ecosystem in Indonesia.

In total, I conducted 19 interviews including three fin-tech startups, one marketplace, several startup incubators and accelerator, and other types of startup. During the fieldwork, I got a chance to take part in the Impact Entrepreneurs Project Launching held by Sacita Muda (The Local Enablers) as well. I presented my research outline to young entrepreneurs where they gave some feedback on how the research should be done. To emphasize more on the startup culture and ecosystem, I joined an office tour to one of the biggest market places in South East Asia where the headquarter is located in Jakarta.

(4) Results and Significance

Before departing there has been worries and anxieties whether or not the fieldwork could be done successfully. I began the research without knowing the real startup ecosystem in Indonesia. Neither am I a startup enthusiast nor do I know those people whom I was trying to approach. This fieldwork turned out to be more fun than it was expected since informants are quite approachable and willing to share their ideas. The way they described and explained clearly the challenges and opportunities facing them on running startups in Indonesia where voids are inevitably attached.

Upon conducting fieldwork, the pictures became even more evident as it helped to clarify and confirm what has been written in the media and academic articles. I would say that through this fieldwork, I was given a considerable chance to draw the framework of technology-driven startups in Indonesia, particularly on how entrepreneurs dealt with legality issues and overcome the social problems. Although those interviews did not provide the exact number of how much startups obtained investment from their angel investors, the gestures and explanation itself are enough to be analyzed further for an academic report.

Future Perspective

(1) Objectives

Overall, the data collection process and interview result are satisfying as the numbers as mentioned earlier are beyond expectation. On the one hand, the interviews have provided many useful insights on the general illustration performing startup in Indonesia as well as the challenges and opportunities. On the other hand, a caveat surfaced about how the regulation and authorities treat nascent business. Since the interviews were mostly conducted in less than one hour, I was not able to cover some sensitive issues regarding the legality issues and how they were able to solve them. However, the collected data are more than enough to be the base of further analysis for research purpose.

(2) Lessons learned

I would say that performing fieldwork is merely not a skill of collecting data. Instead, learning on how a researcher is encouraged to prepare the materials, pose an excellent manner of contacting informants and respondents, and how to deal with unexpected situations and uncertainties. It is also important to equip myself with knowledge on particular issues or theories so that the researcher could catch what informants describe. They often expressed jargons or terms related to their specific capacity and most of the time I had no idea about it. I expect not only to learn and read the core issues, but also other related matters. By understanding the ideas widely, interviews and discussions would be smoother and more comprehensive.



With Co-founder GoJek



With VP Dynamic Culture GoJek



GoJek Headquarter, Jakarta



GoJek Headquarter, Jakarta

After presentation at The Local Enablers (Sacita Muda), Jatinangor, Bandung



Launching Impact Entrepreneurs The Local Enablers, Bandung



With CEO Sacita Muda (Centre) and Founder The Local Enablers (Right)



With Head of Product BukaLapak



With Lecture of Binus University (Binus Accelerator)



Binus University, Alam Sutera, Tangerang Selatan

Field Research to the typical Third-front areas: Hubei, Guizhou, and Sichuan

ZHAO Yameng

Executive Summary

My research topic is about a historical event called “The Third-front Movement” which lasted from 1960s to 1980s in China. During this movement, thousands of state-owned factories were relocated to eleven inland provinces from coastal developed areas, together with a large number of workers. This process, which can be regarded as a “reversed-clustering process” that violated the common industrialization rules, was so special that it is worth exploring deeply. And how did these enterprises overcome their unfortunate destiny to find their own way out in the new environment after the reform and opening-up policy initiated in 1978 also arose my strong curiosity. This is my motivation to conduct the overseas field research.

As a business history researcher, I need to collect abundant historical materials to support my argument in my thesis. And to narrow the research sphere, I chose three cities—Wuhan, Guiyang, and Chongqing, which were all typical areas during the movement, and went to the local libraries to collect historical materials and chorographies.

Furthermore, I had the precious opportunities to interview two authoritative leading scholars in China in this research field. They told me the development status of this subject in China, and provided me with very important guidance on how to choose research approaches, the selection methods of research objects, and possible further research direction, which stimulated my passion for further academic exploration.

Research Trip Details

(1) Objectives and Significance

The whole process, from when I found this topic and started to have interest into it to doing the literature review, was conducted in Japan. Though I can get access to the most advanced theoretical ideas in school, the first-hand data which are the fundamental elements for business history research could not be found, unless I go to the field by myself. So this is my first objective: to collect abundant historical materials to support my argument in my thesis.

And the second objective is to get to know the development status of this subject. Though I have collected the published papers related to my research topic from the Internet as far as I can, the information was neither plentiful nor systematical enough, which made me unable to construct a very clear picture about the existing research situation, limitation or gap. Through this field research, I received guidance from two authoritative scholars in China and they answered my questions straightforwardly, which enabled me to modify and conduct my further research more efficiently.

(2) Methods and Strategies

Two main methods were employed:

1. Archival data collection: Before I set off for my field research, I clearly know that I need the data which is as raw as possible. So I went to the provincial libraries in Wuhan, Chongqing, and Guiyang, mainly collecting the memoirs published by the factories themselves or the annals published by the local government. The data included: The big changes of policies, factories' adjustment on personnel's, strategies, the operation state, etc. These data would help me to clarify the chronological history of the regions and enterprises which were involved in the Third-front Movement.
2. Interviews with scholars: I had the precious opportunity to interview two authoritative scholars in this field: One is Professor Zhang Yong of Sichuan International Studies University, and another one is Professor Xu Youwei of Shanghai University, who was also the supporter of my field research. I arranged one interview in the middle of my research and another one on the last day, because I hoped to communicate with them after I had collected a certain number of data and had already come up with some ideas, rather than only hearing their one-side guidance. And they told me which idea is feasible and which may not, which made our conversation more efficient and helpful.

(3) Schedule and Activities

Date			Visiting Institute/organisation	Research activities
3	Sun	(moving)	Kyoto	
			Wuhan, Hubei, China	
4	Mon		Hubei Provincial Library	Reference materials about the Third-front Movement in Shiyan City in Hubei Provincial Library
5	Tue		Hubei Provincial Library	Reference materials about the Third-front Movement in Yichang City in Hubei Provincial Library
6	Wed		Hubei Provincial Library	Reference materials about the history of Third-front enterprises in Hubei Provincial Library
7	Thu		Hubei Provincial Archives	Data of annual economic growth in Third-front cities from 1978 to 2001 in Hubei Provincial Archives

Date			Visiting Institute/organisation	Research activities	
8	Fri		Wuhan University Library	Memoirs of retired workers of Third-front enterprises in Wuhan University Library	
9	Sat		Holiday		
10	Sun		Holiday		
11	Mon	(moving)	Wuhan, Hubei, China		
			Guiyang, Guizhou		
			Guizhou Provincial Library	Reference materials about the Third-front Movement in Anshun City in Guizhou Provincial Library	
12	Tue		Guizhou Provincial Library	Reference materials about the Third-front Movement in Liupanshui City in Guizhou Provincial Library	
13	Wed		The Third Line Construction Museum	Visiting important Third-front museum, getting know about the details during the movement and communicate with museum staffs	
14	Thu		Guizhou Provincial Library	Reference materials about the Third-front Movement in Liupanshui City in Guizhou Provincial Library	
15	Fri		Guizhou Provincial Library	Reference materials about the Third-front Movement in Liupanshui City in Guizhou Provincial Library	
16	Sat	(moving)	Guiyang, Guizhou		
			Chengdu, Sichuan		
			Holiday		
17	Sun		Sichuan Provincial Library	Reference materials about the Third-front Movement in Panzhihua City in Sichuan Provincial Library	
18	Mon		Sichuan Provincial Library	Reading memoirs of Third-front workers in Sichuan Provincial Library	

Date			Visiting Institute/organisation	Research activities
19	Tue		Chongqing library	The data of economic growth of Chongqing City during and after the Third-front Movement in Chongqing Library
20	Wed		Holiday	
21	Thu		Chongqing library	The data of economic growth of Chongqing City during and after the Third-front Movement in Chongqing Library
22	Fri		Sichuan International Studies University	Interview with Professor Zhang Yong of Sichuan International Studies University, who has published several influential papers about Third-front Movement and gives me advices on conducting related field work.
23	Sat		Chongqing library	The data of economic growth of Chongqing City during and after the Third-front Movement in Chongqing Library
24	Sun	(moving)	Chengdu, Sichuan	
			Shanghai	
25	Mon		Shanghai University Library	Reading memoirs of Third-front workers who used to live in Shanghai but migrated to Western China during the movement in Shanghai University Library
26	Tue		Shanghai University Library	Reference materials about the Third-front Movement's influence on Southeastern China in Shanghai University Library
27	Wed		Shanghai University	Interview with Professor Xu Youwei of Shanghai University, who is the leading scholar in this field in China now and shows me his newest research results and give guidance on my thesis.

Date			Visiting Institute/organisation	Research activities	
28	Thu	(moving)	Shanghai		
			Kyoto		

(4) Results and Significance:

My results are as followed:

1. According to the data I collected in the libraries in different regions, I decide to do a comparative analysis with specific cases of three factories, which were in different regions and evolved with their own patterns separately. Basing on the data and materials that I've collected, I will focus on their measures to look for new potential market while maintain their rough daily operation under new economic environment.
2. After getting to know the specific direction of my research, the scholars warmly provided me with the contact information of the curators of some local archives to get access to more specific materials. Though this time the schedule didn't allow me to go to the counties, this information will be very helpful for my researches in the future.

Future Perspective

(1) Objectives

Besides finished the basic mission of collecting data and materials, another important meaning of this field research is it made me realize that history can be so lively and so close to us. The Professors that I interviewed have been devoted to do the oral history collection work about the Third-front Movement and enterprises for many years. And their works made me know more details about this historical event and let me understand how it exactly influenced the destiny of those involved people. As I will inject this kind of emotion into my thesis, I also wish to have the opportunity to conduct the collection job of oral history by myself in the future.

One pitiful thing was that I had planned to visit some old factories in the remote counties, which have high industrial archaeology value. However, the highroad was frozen and blocked due to the cold winter weather. So I had to cancel the schedule. This reminds us that there will always be some uncontrollable factors when we are conducting real field work. So being flexible is an important attribute for a researcher.

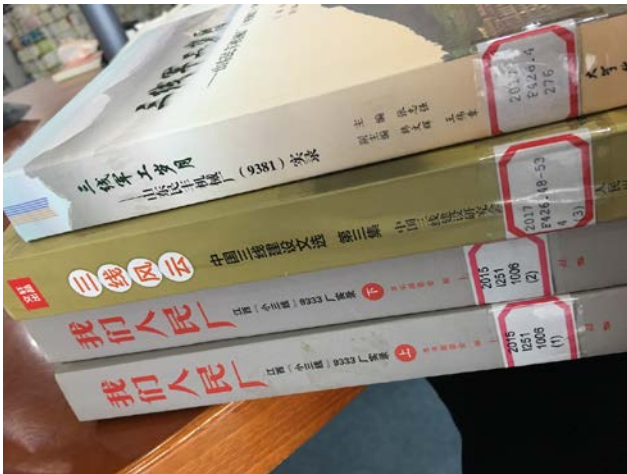
(2) Lessons learned

I think it would be better if I could have restrained my research range into one certain region earlier so that I can explore deeper, have the time to go to the counties, get access to county records, and even acquire the opportunities to interview people in factories. But step by step is also not bad. The topic that I am devoting to is new and extensive, so during my master period, I will choose a relatively shallow but broad angle, while for my doctoral studies, I will choose a narrower but deeper research perspective.

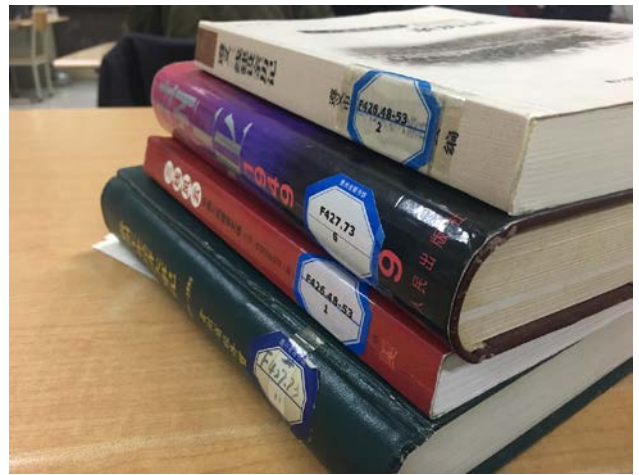
Appendix:



Chongqing Library



Materials and archives



Interview with Professor Xu and Professor Zhang

A Cross-Cultural Study of Japan and Denmark's Government Policies that Positively Impact Women's Empowerment

GRAMLICH Julie Taeko

Executive Summary

In the [World Economic Forum's \(WEF\) Global Gender Gap \(GGG\) Report of 2018](#), Denmark ranked 13th, while Japan ranked 113th. Furthermore, in [the Global Entrepreneurship and Development Institute's \(GEDI\) Global Entrepreneurship Index \(GEI\) of 2018](#), Denmark ranked in the top 10 at number 6; whereas, Japan ranked at number 28, behind Taiwan (18th) and Hong Kong (13th). Although both Japan and Denmark are coordinated market economies, the rate of entrepreneurship and gender equality is significantly higher in Denmark.

In Japan, I conducted [19 semi-structured interviews with women entrepreneurs](#). After writing about each interview, I coded the data. Based on these results, I crafted a new Interview Guide based on the trends I discovered. Armed with knowledge about life as a woman entrepreneur in Japan, as well as theoretical knowledge about Denmark, I began interviewing women entrepreneurs, professors, and PhD students to better understand the opportunities and challenges of launching a business in a gender-equal society.

Based on the preliminary results, Denmark seems to have strong institutional support for startups. Moreover, there is strong human capital with highly educated people, and high risk capital, as there is a strong safety net to fall back on, if the venture fails. In the [GEDI's GEI Report](#), Denmark had an overall score of 74 percent due to its scores of 100 percent for opportunity perception, opportunity startup, technology absorption, human capital and risk capital. Furthermore, it had above 90 percent in competition, cultural support, and product innovation. Whereas, Japan had an overall score of 52 percent, and only two component scores of 100 percent for process innovation and high growth. The other two scores above 90 percent were for technology absorption ion and human capital.

Research Trip Details

(1) Objectives and Significance

The overall objective of my research was to understand the similarities and differences that women face when starting a venture in Denmark and Japan.

Moreover, I wanted to know if the rates of entrepreneurship amongst women were higher in Denmark compared to Japan, because Denmark ranks higher in terms of gender equality and a strong entrepreneurial environment. According to the [Global Entrepreneurship Monitor's \(GEM\) 2018 report](#), Japan's total early-stage entrepreneurial activity rates by women amongst adults

age 18-64, was approximately 4 percent. And according to the [OECD and European Commission's 2015 Policy Brief on Women's Entrepreneurship](#), the share of self-employment amongst female adults between 15-64, was approximately 5 percent in Denmark. Therefore, in both Japan and Denmark, the rates of entrepreneurship amongst women is quite low, even though Denmark ranks significantly higher in terms of gender equality and has strong institutional support for entrepreneurs.

(2) Methods and Strategies

During my first of 3 weeks in Denmark, I met with all 3 of my advising professors at [Copenhagen Business School \(CBS\)](#) and [The Technical University of Denmark \(DTU\)](#). Based on their recommendations and LinkedIn referrals, I also met with three PhD students and a Fulbright student. Through these interactions, I gained deeper insight into the policies, institutional systems, gender-equality issues, and the practical side of becoming an entrepreneur in Denmark.

I began conducting semi-structured interviews with women entrepreneurs in Denmark during my second week. While a few were conducted on Skype, the majority of my 14 interviews were conducted in person. By having in-person meetings all around Copenhagen, I was able to visit the offices where these women worked, meet some of their staff, and have them sign an Interview Release form. Each interview was approximately 45 minutes long — the shortest was 35 minutes, and the longest was 1.5 hours.



Photo Caption: Nima Sophia Tisdall and I. She is the founder of Blue Lobster app, which seeks to promote sustainable fisheries by connecting local fishermen to local customers. Our interview lasted for 1.5 hours.

Based on my updated Interview Guide, I asked these 14 women questions about their sources of funding, whether or not they had lived or worked abroad for over one month, the importance of a support network and system, optimism, their previous career, networking, courage, and personal information about the year and age they started their company, and whether or not they had children, were married, or were ever divorced.



Photo Caption: Jytte Bille is the founder of STAi, a health and wellness company that sells an all-in-one nutritional supplement shake for healthy living. She launched the company at the age of 64.

(3) Schedule and Activities

Beyond my actual interviews with women entrepreneurs, I met with professors, PhD students, a Fulbright student, an American friend studying abroad, my Airbnb hosts, my Buddhist community, and a high school friend who now heads sustainability at KPMG in Copenhagen. All of these encounters, helped deepen my understanding of the socio-economic, political, and cultural aspects of Denmark, such as the fact that all Danish citizens begin receiving a stipend at age 18 to attend college in addition to free tuition.

Furthermore, if one is a current student at CBS with a business idea, then he or she can apply to receive incubator desk space for free on campus. One of the women entrepreneurs of [2030 Builders](#) — a gamification solution for implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in companies — was a recipient of the free incubator space at CBS. We met at her office space, and I received a quick tour of the space, which reminded me of startups in Silicon Valley. Moreover, she had access to CBS students, who could work for her as free interns. There was even a program at CBS that matched startups with student interns.



Photo Caption: Mia Negru and I. She is the founder of 2030Builders — a gaming & co-creation company that helps companies implement UN SDG goals. Our interview lasted for an hour.

Finally, I volunteered for the [March 8th International Women's Day event at CBS](#). Specifically, I facilitated the GenderLAB. According to the website, the purpose of the GenderLAB is to “address challenges and tackle complex problems regarding gender equality...We combine norm-critical methods with design thinking to raise awareness, disrupt, and transgress commonly held assumptions, unconscious biases, privileges, hidden norms and structures in order to identify new ways for organizations to tackle gender equality.” It was truly an invigorating and eye-opening exercise.



Photo Caption: Mayra Navarrete and I. She is the founder of Imarit — a sustainable luxury goods company. And she was one of the main photographers for the CBS International Women's Day event. Our interview lasted for one hour.

(4) Results and Significance

Due to this 3 week research trip, I was very fortunate to conduct 14 interviews with women entrepreneurs in Denmark. Each encounter was valuable, as it furthered the depth and breadth of my research. I also plan to type up my interview notes and craft a compelling story to promote these women on my website and Women 2.0's website.

Both countries are similar in that they are coordinated market economies, but they differ in ratings for a healthier entrepreneurial environment and gender equality. Amongst women entrepreneurs in Japan, 6/19 were divorced, 7/19 were married, 9/19 had children, 13/19 spoke fluent English, and 16/19 had lived or worked abroad for over a month. Furthermore, the vast majority — 11/19 used their own personal savings to finance their company. And 9/19 women entrepreneurs received money from their family to start their ventures. And the average age of when they started their business was 36.

Amongst women entrepreneurs in Denmark, 5/14 were married, 3/14 were divorced, 8/14 had children, 13/14 had lived or worked abroad for over a month. Furthermore, 11/14 had used their own personal finances to start their venture, 5/14 had won competitions, 4/14 received money from angel investors, 4/14 received money from private companies or foundations, 4/14 received money from the government, 4/14 received support from university-sponsored incubators, and only 3/14 received money from their family — quite different from Japanese women entrepreneurs. Moreover, 9/14 were serial entrepreneurs. And the average age of when they started their business was 36.



Photo Caption: Maria Flyvbjerg Bo is the founder of Spenderlog — an app that automatically tracks and organizes all of your finances to provide you with informed suggestions on how to improve your financial health and literacy. She started her first company at the age of 16.

Future Perspective and Reflection

(1) Objectives

Originally, my objective was to interview around 5 women entrepreneurs, but I was able to exceed that goal by 180 percent. I was planning to conduct research around public policies that affected Denmark's gender equality ratings, but during my initial meetings with professors, all of them argued that Denmark still had a long way to go in terms of becoming a truly gender equal society.

And government policies were created without any real practical knowledge of how it would impact the people on the ground level. For example, the government expanded [maternity leave](#) to include 4 weeks prior to giving birth, 14 weeks after, the father or co-mother is entitled to 2 weeks leave after the birth, and the remaining 32 weeks can be split by either parent. Plus, the mother or father could extend the leave for an additional 14 weeks, for a grand total of one year.

While this sounds great in theory, the woman generally took the extended parental leave, as the man typically earned more money. As such, it would not make financial sense for the man to take off time from his job, except for the 2 weeks. Thus, my professors encouraged me to focus on gender, potentially using the norm-critical method, and how it impacts women entrepreneurs in Denmark and Japan. As a result of these invaluable interactions, my objectives changed.

(2) Lessons learned

Although I did significant work prior to arriving in Denmark by contacting professors and entrepreneurship centers, I should have found lists of women entrepreneurs prior to arriving, so I could have scheduled interviews right when I arrived. That way, I would have had more time to process the data that I collected, and ask more specific questions to my advisors.

Based on what I learned from my interactions with professors, my focus changed towards focusing on the gender-related aspects of entrepreneurship, and how women entrepreneurs challenge the norms by launching a venture. Working with my professor at Kyoto University, I attempted to streamline everything I learned into a cohesive research question, but I am still working out the details, and will have a meeting with my professor right after I return to solidify my research question for my Master's Thesis. Thus, it's still a work in progress.

Production and Reproduction of Chinese Peasant Farmers under the Industrialization, Urbanization and Agricultural Modernization: Case study on peasant agricultural production in the Major Grain Producing Area

WANG Yiming

Executive Summary

This field trip primarily aims to obtain deeper understanding on the current mode of peasant agricultural production in central China in the context of rural transformation, understand how peasant farmers interact with new-type farmers and local government, choose the most appropriate cases, collect related data for further analysis in my research. Besides, this trip could also offer me a good chance to discuss my research with professors in this field in China and get suggestions.

Henan Province is a typical agricultural province in central China and is recognized as one of the main grain production areas in China. Nanyang City is the largest agricultural city in Henan in terms of arable land area, gross output value of agriculture and population. Field research in different villages in Nanyang would be a good reflection of the rural status in central China.

By visiting different villages and interviewing with different stakeholders ranging from peasant farmers, entrepreneurial farmers, capitalist farmers to government officials, I found that local government plays a leading role in large-scale rural land transfer, and sometimes they are a bit radical. There is a clear policy preference for large scale new-type farmers, especially for the capitalist farmers who have made their primary accumulation in other places. Peasant farmers and entrepreneurial farmers at a primary stage are usually elderly farmers. Aging problem has become serious in rural areas. There is a clear differentiation in peasant farmers. After the interviews, A Town* turns out to be the most appropriate case for my further study. At the end, I presented these results to professors in the Academy of Hinterland Development, Henan University, and received some useful feedback.

In conclusion, most of my goals have been achieved in this trip, and I collected more information than I thought. Overall, I think this was a fruitful research trip which accumulated primary data and point out the future direction on my research.

*Since some of my interviewees would not like to reveal their personal information to the public, I would use A Town to refer to the first town I visited.

Research Trip Details

(1) Objectives and Significance

- Objectives

There are primarily three objectives for this field research:

- To gain deeper understanding on peasant agricultural production mode in central China in the context of rural transformation;
- To collect data in libraries and research institutions;
- To have deep discussion with experts in local research institutions and solicit feedback for my research.

- Significance

My research focus on the current status and future development of agricultural production mode of peasant farmers in Central China against the background of rural transition.

- The field research could help me to gain a deeper understanding of the reality which are actually happening in the field;
- Besides, in my dissertation, at least one case needs to be selected and analyzed. This field trip offers me a valuable chance to choose the most appropriate cases for study.
- This trip could also help me to collect more data for further analysis and support my argument.

(2) Methods and Strategies

The methods and strategies I used in the research trip mainly include the followings:

- Semi-structured interviews

Before I went to a village, I usually worked out several lists of questions. There are different lists for different kinds of interviewees. I have lists of questions for peasant farmers, entrepreneurial farmers, capitalist farmers and government officials respectively. After I arrived in the village, the first thing I did was to ask my contacts for more detailed information about the village and interviewees. This could help me to ask better questions and get more information during the interviews.

Using semi-structured interviews made it easier to compare different cases and tell the differences. In addition, semi-structured interviews gave me flexibility to ask questions.

- Observation & Participatory observation

When I made interviews with farmers, I usually went to their farm land or home, I could observe their daily life and farm activities directly. The time when I did my field research is just the time for spraying pesticide in Nanyang. I could see how farmers prepare and spray pesticide in different ways for different scales of farmland.

Besides, during my stay at the villages, if I see the farmers doing some farm activities that I could help, I would join and help them. For example, I helped them to shell peanuts to prepare the seeds for autumn. This makes our relations closer. And they are more relax and would like to talk more when they are doing their daily work.

(3) Schedule and Activities

- **February 21st, 2019**

- departure from Osaka

- **February 22nd, 2019**

- Arrived Zhengzhou in the early morning
- Arrived A Town, Nanyang in the late afternoon
- Confirmed and discussed the interview plan and details with my contacts in A Town, and collect general information of A Town

- **February 23rd, 2019**

- Visited A Town



(Although there are many cars in A Town nowadays, but two-wheels and three-wheels electric motorcycles are the principle means of transportation. And the buildings are usually two levels building without yards.)

- Interviews with 3 male peasant farmers

- **February 24th, 2019**

- Interview with government official working in Rural Centre in A Town
- Interview with an entrepreneurial farmer
- Interview with a female peasant farmer

- **February 25th, 2019**

- Observed a rural blind date in the home of one of my contacts
- Interviews with two female peasant farmers

- February 26th, 2019

- Visited and interviewed two entrepreneurial farmers



Agricultural machinery at entrepreneurial farms



(Two different rural villages, picture on the left side is a traditional rural village and picture on the right side is relatively a new village.)

● **February 27th, 2019**

- visited and interviewed three entrepreneurial farmers



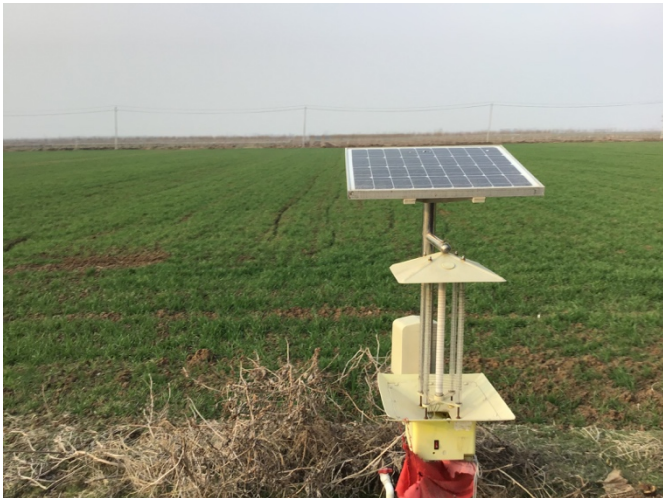
Photo on the left:

underground pipes laid by local government for watering



(Preparation for spraying pesticide for large-scale farms)

- **February 28th, 2019**
- visited and interviewed one peasant farmer and one capitalist farmer



(left: solar powered light traps

right: a large amount of rotten pumpkins that could not be sold to the market)

- **March 1st, 2019**
- Interview with a female peasant farmer
- Moved to Chenzhuang Village
- **March 2nd, 2019**
- Interviews with two peasant farmers
- got acute gastroenteritis and gained the experience of seeing a doctor in rural area
- **March 3rd, 2019**
- Interviews with two female peasant farmers



(the two female farmers are shelling peanuts to prepare seeds to be sown this autumn)



(courtyard economy)

- **March 4th, 2019**
 - moved to Shierlihe Village, Nanyang
 - Interviews with two peasant farmers
- **March 5th, 2019**
 - Collected data at Nanyang City's library



- **March 6th, 2019**

- move from Nanyang to Kaifeng

- **March 7th, 2019**

- Meeting with Professor Geng Mingzhai, the Dean of the Academy of Hinterland Development, Henan University, got suggestions from Professor Geng;
- attended an academic conference in the Academy of Hinterland Development



- **March 8th, 2019**

- Presented my research result to Professor Zhang Jianqiu, Professor Liudaining and Professor Liu Tao, and got feedback from them



(photo with Professor Zhang Jianqiu (right) and Professor Liu Daining(left))

- **March 9th, 2019**

- data collection in Library of Henan University and reference room in the Academy of Hinterland Development

- **March 10th, 2019**

- Move from Kaifeng to Kyoto

(4) Results and Significance

In this field trip, A Town is the most important case, and a large proportion of my interviews (16 out of 22) were conducted there. I covered almost all kinds of stakeholders: peasant farmers, entrepreneurial farmers, capitalist farmers and local government. By analyzing these interviews, I could see the leading role of local government, and obvious policy preference for large scale new-type farmers, especially for the capitalist farmers. I could also identify the differentiation among peasant farmers against the background of depeasantization trend led by the central government. A Town will be one of the case studies in my dissertation, and primary data collected during this field trip would be the basis for the case analysis.

I also collected many statistical data and survey data in the libraries and research institutions. Statistical data could be used for the Chapter 1 and Chapter 3 in my dissertation to offer a general background. Survey data could be used for a journal paper regarding rural land transfer and rural population mobilization, which will also be a major part of my dissertation.

Discussion with professors in local research institutions offered me a broader and more holistic view on my research and inspired me a lot.

Future Perspective and Reflection

(1) Objectives

Overall, I think this is a fruitful research trip, and most of my research objectives were achieved. I gained deeper understanding on peasant mode of agricultural production, and collected first hand data in A Town, which will be a major case study in my dissertation. But due to lack of field research experience, the data collected in A Town this time may not be sufficient to support my argument, I need to go to visit A Town for a second time in the future. But the connections I built with these interviewees will make my second research trip easier.

(2) Lessons learned

One of the most important things I learned in this trip is that there are always additional opportunities in the trip, we should seize them firmly. And in order to seize these opportunities, we should prepare very well before departure.

In general, this research trip was productive, it not only helped me collect data and select case studies for my dissertation, but also gave me some inspirations. And I am deeply grateful for all the professors, staffs and interviewees; without their kind help and valuable time, it would have been impossible for me to have this fruitful research trip.

The pulp and paper industry in Yangtze River Delta Economic Zone

YU Mengxing

Executive Summary

This fulfilling field research provided urgently-needed information and sources for my PhD study. During the trip, I did not only gain the opportunity to visit some real paper-making factories, but also to communicate with officers of paper-making associations. This unique experience provided an internal view to study the pulp and paper industry in China, which is my PhD topic. At the same time, this field research also provides some detailed data and sources for my upcoming conference presentations. In a nutshell, this field trip is quite beneficial and essential to current study.

Research Trip Details

(1) Objectives and Significance

The main purpose of my field research is to understand and study the pulp and paper industry in China from a short-distance observation. The topic of my PhD dissertation is about the entire pulp and paper industry, but my current chapter and focus is on the raw material procurement of the industry. Thus, this field trip, which allowed me to visit the company, factory and association, made significant contributions to my current work.

Company tour part:

Among all the company visits, the one to Gold East Paper company in Jiangsu contributes most to my understanding of the industry. Firstly, we visited the company show room for the general introduction and interview. Secondly, I went to the third produce line to observe the ongoing producing system. This line has the fourth most expensive paper-making machines. The total length of that machine is about 400m, and it is specialized for coated paper producing. Thirdly, we went to the outside environmental-friendly park to witness the process of reusing the waste water and company forest. This company tour allowed me to gain a deeper understanding about the raw material system of the company and how they utilize these materials. At the same time, the experience and pictures from this tour will be used in my conference presentations.



Museum visit part:

During the trip, I had the chance to visit several interesting local museums. Among all the visits, Suzhou Creek Industrial Civilization Museum and Shanghai History Museum are the most important ones. Both of them exhibit some original machines and industrialized process of the pulp and paper industry. These may allow me to link my research to a broader historical perspective.



Interviews part:

Another highlight of this field research is the interview of the secretary general of Zhejiang technical association paper industry. I consulted several specific parts of the industrial producing and general history of the industry in Zhejiang. The secretary general also provides some very useful materials and data for my research.



Hand-made paper workshop experience part:

During the trip, I also gained an opportunity to witness the producing process of traditional local bamboo paper. I visit the national-level non-material cultural heritage workshop and interview the inheritor. Recently, Chinese pulp industry started to utilize more non-wood pulp, including bamboo pulp. Thus, it's necessary to understand these raw materials as well. The visit to the workshop provided a great opportunity for me to witness the process.



(2) Methods and Strategies

This field research is mainly constituted by interviews and observation. The contents of oral interviews followed the value chain of pulp and paper industry and tries to attach every part of the producing process. At the same time, my observations in the museums were followed by introductions to local researchers.

(3) Schedule and Activities

Date	Location	Institution	Activity
Feb 17	Kyoto-Shanghai		Flight
Feb 18	Shanghai	Suzhou Creek Industrial Civilization Museum	Museum visiting
Feb 19	Shanghai	An anonymous shipping company	interview
Feb 20	Shanghai-Zhenjiang-Shanghai	Gold East Paper (Jiangsu)	Company tour
Feb 21	Shanghai	Shanghai History Museum and Shanghai Museum	Museum visiting
Feb 22	Shanghai	Shanghai Tianzhang Jilu Zhichang	Company visiting
Feb 23	Shanghai-Hangzhou	Hangzhou Urban Construction Exhibition Hall	Museum visiting
Feb 24	Hangzhou	Zhejiang Technical Association of Paper Industry	Interview
Feb 25	Hangzhou	Huafeng Paper Mill	Company visiting
Feb 26	Hangzhou-Fuyang	Fuyang district visiting	Data collecting
Feb 27	Fuyang-Hangzhou	Fuyang district hand-made paper workshop	Workshop experience
Feb 28	Hangzhou	Hangzhou Museum	Museum visiting
Mar 1	Hangzhou	Zhejiang Provincial Museum	Museum visiting
Mar 2	Hangzhou-Kyoto		Flight

(4) Results and Significance

The experience of company tours and museum visiting will make a great contribution to my upcoming conference presentations at the BHC 2019 annual meeting in Cartagena and at the EBHA 2019 in Rotterdam. At the same time, this field research will also benefit my PhD dissertation. It provided a detailed case study for my work.

Future Perspective and Reflection

(1) Objectives

During these fulfilling two weeks, I finished the main parts of my goal, which are about the museum visiting, company tours and interviews. Nonetheless, I plan to keep my field research on the local archives searching and data collections. I could not get access to official local archives center due to the lack of time and mere background information.

In the future, I will try to find some online digital archives first, and then try to go there again with more specific requests. Meanwhile, another important lesson I learned is that how to communicate with local companies and associations. Preparing enough information and having a strong background knowledge are essential for further communicating with experts in the industry. Thus, I will also try to gain more technological knowledge of the pulp and paper industry.