

REN CAO

School Address

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Permanent Address

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EDUCATION

Master of Environmental Policy

Duke University, Durham, NC

Duke Kunshan University, Kunshan, China

Award: *Green Future Fund Scholar, Half-Tuition Scholarship*

Master Project Title: The Impact of Railway Construction on Forest Cover in China Advisor: Binbin Li
GPA: 3.762/4.0 Conferred 2020

Master of Arts, Food Studies

The American University of Rome, Rome, Italy

Dissertation Title: *Urban Farm, City Government, and Rural Property Rights: Motivations for a Public-Private Urban Agriculture Partnership in China* Advisor: Ivan Cucco
GPA: 3.375/4.0 Conferred 2018

Bachelor of Arts, Comparative Politics (Major), Sociology (Minor)

University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, CA

GPA: 3.475/4.0 Conferred 2016

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Bioversity International

Research Assistant, Unit of External Engagement, Rome, Italy

November 2016 - May 2017

Director: Richard China

- Identified candidate city-rural regions in the Mediterranean area for EU-funded small and medium enterprise (SME) development.
- Evaluated local food systems and value chains, with emphasis on public-private partnerships and exchange of policy learning.

University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, CA

Research Apprenticeship Program, Department of Political Science

January - June 2016

Research Project Topic: *Some People Want the Fall of Regime: Explaining Demands for Regime Change in the Arab World.* Advisor: Konstantin Ash

- Coded protest news in Bahrain and Jordan before and during the Arab Spring movement.
- Quantitatively analyzed the correlation between willingness to protest and trust in elected political institutions in two Middle Eastern monarchies, Jordan and Bahrain.

University of California Washington Center

Student Representative, Washington, D.C.

January - March 2015

- Represented the University of California, San Diego in Washington, D.C.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Hainan Airlines, Inc., Beijing, China August - September 2015
International Sales Manager, Revenue Management Department.

- Network Planning for the Middle Eastern and North American markets.

China Radio International North America Broadcasting Center, Washington, D.C. January - March 2015
Practicing Correspondent

Beijing Municipal Institute of City Planning and Design, Beijing, China August - September 2013
Internship Planner, Division of Site Planning

- Public transit planning for the Beijing Daxing International Airport (ICAO Code: ZBAD).

CONFERENCES

Poster Presentations

- **Cao, R.**, Huang H., and Wang, Z. (2019, October). *Impacts of High-Speed Railway on Forest Cover Change in China*. Student Conference on Conservation Science in New York, the American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY.
- **Cao, R.** (2018, November). *Analyzing a Government-Funded Urban Agriculture Project in Kunshan, China*. Forum of Health, Environmental and Development, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China.

Conference Talk

- **Cao, R.** (2017, November). *Urban Farms, City Governments, and Land Ownerships: Dilemmas and Opportunities under the Chinese Collective Property Right Regime*. 8th Annual Conference of the Association of the European Schools of Planning, Coventry, United Kingdom.

GRANTS AND PROJECTS

- Co-Investigator, **UC Berkeley Peder Sather Grant**. *Models of sustainable farming; innovation and responsibility repertoires in different geographical contexts*. Total budget: USD 25,000. 2019-2020. Other Investigators: Kathinka Furst (Duke Kunshan University), Robin Marsh & Micah Elias (UC Berkeley), and Heidi Wiig & Inger Elisabeth Maren (University of Oslo).
- Co-Investigator, **Fudan University Nordic Center Grant**. *Land and natural resources: East and West*. Total budget: EUR 7,500. 2019-2022. Other Investigators: Kathinka Furst (Duke Kunshan University) and Heidi Wiig & Inger Elisabeth Maren (University of Oslo).

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

- **Computing Skills:** R, Stata, ArcGIS, ENVI, Nvivo, L^AT_EX, Adobe Premier
- **Qualitative and Field Skills:** Interview, Ethnography, Vegetation Survey, Bird Survey
- **Languages:** Chinese Mandarin (Native or Bilingual Proficiency) and English (Full Professional Proficiency)
- **Honors:** UC San Diego Eleanor Roosevelt College Provost Honors (Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Winter 2016, Spring 2016)