

Yilun Zha

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EDUCATION

Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA

PhD, Urbanism, GPA: 3.89/4.00, Certificate in Geographic Information Systems

Dec 2024 (expected)

MS, Statistics

Dec 2023

MS, Urban Design, GT-Tongji Duel Degree Scholarship

Aug 2018

Tongji University, Shanghai, China

MEng, Urban Planning

May 2019

BEng, Urban Planning, Second-Tier Honor

May 2016

SKILLS

Quantitative: Multivariate Analysis, Spatial Regression, Machine Learning Algorithms, Time Series Analysis

Qualitative: Survey Design, Stakeholder Interviews

Programming: Python, R, SQL, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, LaTeX

Computer Software: Microsoft Office, ArcGIS/QGIS, Tableau, Adobe Suites, GitHub

Language: English (Professional proficiency), Mandarin (Native), Japanese (Elementary)

RELEVANT PROJECTS

Large Institutional Investors of Single-Family Rental Housing, Planning + Property Lab, GA

May 2021 – Jan 2022

- Collected and cleaned over 1 million rows of single-family housing assessment and transaction records in eight counties of Georgia and Florida to identify large institutional investors from shadow companies
- Developed a difference-in-differences (DID) model on census tracts in Atlanta Metropolitan Area and detected a positive relationship between Opportunity Zone tax credit incentives and the increasing presence of investment from institutional buyers
- Co-authored research papers published by the Urban Institute and the APPAM 2022 Fall Conference
- Presented key findings and policy implications to Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and media platform Newsy
- Assisted in the preparation of written testimonies for the House Committee on Financial Services

Climate Change Data Inventory and Dashboard Scan, Atlanta Regional Commission, GA

May 2023 – Aug 2023

- Conducted cross-departmental interviews with 10 employees to understand internal expectations for climate-relevant data
- Compiled a list of 25 key climate-related benchmarking indicators as the first institute-wide climate data inventory to support the fulfillment of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) from the US EPA
- Wrote three blog episodes of the “Summer Sizzlin’ Series” to highlight the health impact of extreme heat in Georgia

Environmentally Extended Input-Output Data Tracking and Analysis, US EPA (online)

May 2020 – Aug 2020

- Collected and calibrated a variety of social, economic, and environmental variables from multiple sources for model input
- Employed targeted imputation methods to disaggregate national-level economic indices to county levels in Georgia
- Developed and edited interactive widgets on the project website to visualize the supply chain flows and sectoral economic impacts
- Communicated with local authorities in southern Georgia on industrial sectors of interest and expected output formats

Retrofitting Suburban Infrastructure for Sustainability and Resilience (SuRe), Georgia Tech, GA

Aug 2019 – Jan 2020

- Conducted a thematic analysis of our suburban retrofit database and extracted 4 key categories of infrastructure improvement
- Quantified and compared the varying infrastructure improvements of 8 suburban retrofit projects in the US from the perspectives of energy demands, stakeholder preference, street connectivity, and water usage

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCES

Graduate Research/Teaching Assistant, Georgia Tech, GA

Aug 2019 -

- Collect and review a list of economic, social, and ecological indicators of interest to benchmark the impact of a new 25,000-employee corporate office investment in a historically disadvantaged neighborhood
- Deliver lectures and grade final papers for graduate-level course Theories of Urban Design and History of Urban Form
- Co-led workshops and charrettes for Urban Design Studio focusing on equitable and sustainable redevelopment strategies

Intern Urban Planner, Sizemore Group, GA

May 2018 – Sep 2018

- Conducted an asset mapping for District 12 neighborhoods in south Atlanta to identify areas with potential for revitalization
- Developed placemaking strategies to enhance the built environment’s walkability, local identities, and economic opportunities
- Supported community meetings and stakeholder interviews for the fulfillment of District 12 Livable City Initiative (LCI) Plan

CERTIFICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

The American Institute of Certified Planners, AICP Candidate

May 2023

Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems, Graduate Fellow

Aug 2021 – Aug 2023

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, LEED Green Associate

Aug 2021

Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU), Student Member

May 2018