Sihan Mao

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EDUCATION

University of Southern California 2022 – Expected, May 2027
Ph.D. Candidate in Urban Planning, Sol Price School of Public Policy Los Angeles, CA
Dissertation: Property Rights and the Judicial Independence Reform
Advisor: Annette Kim | **Committee:** Jorge De la Roca, Shitong Qiao

University of Chicago 2017 – 2019
Master of Public Policy, Harris School of Public Policy Chicago, IL

Peking University 2013 – 2017
Bachelor of Economics, School of Economics Beijing, China
Exchange students at Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris – Sciences Po

PUBLICATIONS

Mao, S. (2022, April 28). TOD and Low-Carbon City. Global Platform for Sustainable Cities. https://www.thegpsc.org/news/tod-and-low-carbon-city

Mao, S. and Li, D. (2021). Public Space Governance and Internet of Things: How to Manage Dockless Bikes Using Urban Sensors. *Proceedings of 2021 International Association of China Planning Annual Conference (IACP).*

WORK IN PROGRESS

Mao, S. Property Rights and the Judicial Independence Reform: The Role of Courts in Land Takings and Planning Disputes. *Accepted for presentation at 2026 Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Conference (ACSP) and Berkeley Center for Chinese Studies Social Science Research Conference.*

Mao, S. Delayed Homes for Millennials: Measuring Entry to Homeownership by Birth Cohort and Race. *Accepted for presentation at 2024 Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Conference (ACSP).*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

EduBot Nigeria May 2025 – Sep 2025
Consultant Atlanta, GA
- Designed the on-premises AI tutor solution delivering ICT education in Hausa, Yoruba, and Igbo supported by Federal Ministry of Education, promoting digital inclusion and empowering youth and women in underserved communities.

World Bank Oct 2021 – Dec 2023
Consultant, Urban Development Beijing, China
- Assisted in program management of a 30-million-dollar grant for Transit-Oriented Development research (GEF6) implemented by Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Construction and seven cities in China.
- Published research blogs and newsletters about GEF6, TOD, and low-carbon cities on World Bank websites.

City Quadrant Technology Oct 2020 – Sep 2021
Data Scientist Beijing, China
- Assessed affordability and accessibility to public services of residential land parcels listed between 2009 and 2020 for Beijing Urban Planning and Natural Resources Commission.
- Modeled human capital distribution of service sectors in Beijing CBD using multi-agent system for district government.
- Provided time series analysis of inflows and outflows in transit stations P+R parking facilities for Beijing Municipal Audit Bureau to evaluate fiscal efficiency of parking subsidies.

City of Pittsburgh, Innovation & Performance Aug 2019 – Jul 2020
Senior Data Analyst Pittsburgh, PA
- Led the design of a data literacy course in the city hall to promote digital transformation across departments.
- Managed on-premises databases and data pipelines from citywide operation systems to cloud infrastructure and published open datasets to the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center.

OTHER RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

"School Density and Inequality in Student Achievement," with Jorge De la Roca and Petra Thiemann, work in progress.

"Not On My Street! Housing and Racial Effects of Atlanta Street Name Changes," with Raphael Bostic, Jamie Chung, Jorge De la Roca, and Jessica Dill, work in progress.

"EthniCITY: Linguistic Landscape Data and Culture Hubs in LA," with Annette Kim.

"Trust, Transparency, and Technology: Building Digital Equity Through a Civic Digital Commons," with Gwen Shaffer.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Housing and Land Use in Rapidly Urbanizing Regions — Spring 2026
Guest Lecturer, University of Southern California — Los Angeles, CA

Urban and International Development, instructor: Dr. Marlon Boarnet — Spring 2025
Teaching Assistant, University of Southern California — Los Angeles, CA

Spatial Econometrics — Fall 2024
Guest Lecturer, University of Southern California — Los Angeles, CA

Data Science in Urban Design — Spring 2021
Guest Lecturer, *Tianjin University* — Tianjin, China

Microeconomics of Public Policy, instructor: Dr. Kerwin Charles — Fall 2018
Teaching Assistant, University of Chicago — Chicago, IL

HONORS AND AWARDS

Second Century Russell Dissertation Fellowship (USD 42,436)	2026 - 2027
USC Lusk Center for Real Estate Research Award (USD 7,500)	2026 - 2027
USC Public Policy Ph.D. Fellowship	2022 - 2026
Student Fellowship, The Paulson Institute	2017 - 2019
Public Policy University Admission Scholarship, University of Chicago	2017
Exchange Students Scholarship, Peking University	2015

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Beijing Shichahai Urban Exploration Center, *Exhibition Volunteer*	Oct 2020 – Sep 2021
Sciences Po Refugee Help, *Volunteer*	Oct 2015 – Dec 2015
Peking University Soccer Team	May 2014 – Jun 2017

SOFTWARE SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Programming and Statistical Inference:	Python, R, Stata
Spatial Analysis:	ArcGIS, QGIS, GeoDa, OSMnx
Web GIS:	JavaScript, HTML, Mapbox
Database Management:	PostgreSQL, PostGIS, BigQuery, Apache Airflow
Language:	English (Fluent), French (Basic), Mandarin (Native)