

Sean Yuji Sylvia

School of Economics
Renmin University of China
59 Zhongguancun Avenue
Beijing China

Phone (US): (+1) 415-857-0448
Phone (China): (+86) 185-0022-9296
Email: sean.sylvia@gmail.com
Website: www.seansylvia.com

Academic Positions

Assistant Professor, Renmin University of China, 2014-Present.

Fields: Development Economics, Health Economics, Economics of Education

Education

Ph.D. Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland, College Park, 2014
B.A. Economics and International Studies, University of Alabama, 2006, *summa cum laude*.
Minor in Chinese language

Honors and Affiliations

Affiliate, Rural Education Action Program (REAP), Stanford University, 2008-Present
Affiliate, Center for Experimental Economics in Education (CEEE), Shaanxi Normal University, 2013-Present
Member, Early Childhood Interventions Network, Human Capital and Economic Opportunity (HCEO) Global Working Group, 2014-Present
Pre-Doctoral Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University, 2012-2014
Fulbright Fellowship (China), 2007-2008.
Study Abroad Fellowship, Nihon University College of Economics (Tokyo, Japan), 2003

Publications

- “Parental Migration and the Health, Nutrition, and Educational Outcomes of Left-Behind Children: Evidence From A Multi-Province Dataset In China” *Health Affairs*, forthcoming (with Chengchao Zhou, Linxiu Zhang, Renfu Luo, Hognmei Yi, Chengfang Liu, Shi Yaojiang, Prashant Loyalka and Scott Rozelle)
- “Micronutrient Deficiencies and Developmental Delays in Infants: Evidence from a Cross-sectional Survey in Rural China,” *BMJ Open*, forthcoming (with Luo, Renfu, Yaojiang Shi, Huan Zhou, Ai Yue, Alexis Medina and Scott Rozelle)
- “The Prevalence of Anemia in Central and Eastern China: Evidence from the China Health and Nutrition Survey”, *Southeast Asian Journal of Tropical Medicine and Public Health*, 46 (2), 2015 (with Liying Li, Renfu Luo, Alexis Medina and Scott Rozelle)
- “Anemia and Feeding Practices among Infants in Rural Shaanxi Province in China,” *Nutrients*, 6, 5975–5991, 2014 (with Renfu Luo, Yaojiang Shi, Huan Zhou, Ai Yue, Linxiu Zhang, Alexis Medina, and Scott Rozelle)
- “Survey using Incognito Standardized Patients Shows Poor Quality Care in China’s Rural Clinics,” *Health Policy and Planning*, forthcoming (with Yaojiang Shi, Hao Xue, Xin Tian, Huan Wang, Qingmei Liu, Alexis Medina and Scott Rozelle)

- “The Han-Minority Achievement Gap, Language and Returns to Schools in Rural China,” *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 63, 319–359, 2015 (with Yunfan Yang, Huan Wang, Linxiu Zhang, Renfu Luo, Yaojiang Shi, Wei Wang and Scott Rozelle)
- “Do You Get What You Pay for With School-based Health Programs? Evidence from a Child Nutrition Experiment in Rural China,” *Economics of Education Review*, 37, 1-12, 2013 (with Renfu Luo, Linxiu Zhang, Yaojiang Shi, Alexis Medina and Scott Rozelle)
- “Effectiveness of Provider Incentives for Anaemia Reduction in Rural China: a Cluster Randomised Trial,” *BMJ: British Medical Journal*, 345, 2012. (with Grant Miller, Renfu Luo, Linxiu Zhang, Yaojiang Shi, Patricia Foo, Qiran Zhao, Reynaldo Martorell, Alexis Medina and Scott Rozelle)

Working Papers

- “Ordeal Mechanisms, Information, and the Cost-effectiveness of Subsidies: Evidence from Subsidized Eyeglasses in Rural China,” December 2015 (with Xiaochen Ma, Yaojiang Shi, Scott Rozelle and C.-Y. Cynthia Lin Lawell)
- “Impact of Text Message Reminders on Caregivers’ Adherence to a Home Fortification Program in Rural Western China: A Cluster-Randomized Controlled Trial” Revise and Resubmit, December 2015 (with Huan Zhou, Shuai Sun, Renfu Luo, Ai Yue, Yaojiang Shi, Linxiu Zhang, Alexis Medina, and Scott Rozelle)
- “Effect of Deworming on Indices of Health, Cognition and Education Among School Children in Rural China: A Cluster-Randomized Controlled Trial” Under Review, Aug 2015 (with Chengfang Liu, Louise Lu, Linxiu Zhang, Renfu Luo, Alexis Medina, Scot Rozelle, Scott Smith, Yingdan Chen, and Tingjun Zhu)
- “Pay by Design: Teacher Performance Pay Design and the Distribution of Student Achievement,” June 2015 (with Prashant Loyalka, Chengfang Liu, James Chu and Yaojiang Shi)
- “Can Bureaucrats Really be Paid like CEOs? School Administrator Incentives for Anemia Reduction in Rural China,” NBER Working Paper w21302, Under Review, June 2015 (with Renfu Luo, Grant Miller, Scott Rozelle and Marcos Vera-Hernández)
- “‘Absolute’ versus ‘Comparative’ Advantage: Consequences for Gender Gaps in STEM and College Access in Emerging Economies,” Under Review, May 2015 (with Prashant Loyalka, Yue Qu, and May Maani)
- “Teacher Contract Status, Centralization and Student Achievement in Rural China,” October 2014 (with Natalie Johnson, Guangrong Ma, Enyan Yang and Linxiu Zhang)

Research in Progress

- “The Production of Human Capital in Infants: Evidence from a Randomized Trial in Rural China” (with Orazio Attanasio, Jack Blundell, Renfu Luo, Scott Rozelle, and Nele Warrinnier)
- “Drug Sales and Economies of Scope in Healthcare Delivery: An Audit Study” (with Jishnu Das, Quy-Toan Do, and Yaojiang Shi)
- “Teacher Incentive Design, Triage, and Dropout: Experimental Evidence from Middle Schools in Rural China” (with Chengfang Liu, Prashant Loyalka, Derek Neal, and Scott Rozelle)
- “Food Safety Salience and Nutrition in Urban China” (with Vivian Hoffmann, Jingchun Nie, and Lunyu Xie)
- “Multiple Tasks and Multiple Rewards: Experimental Evidence on Performance Incentives, Alignment and Complementarity from Chinese Schools” (with Grant Miller, Marcos Vera-Hernández and Scott Rozelle)

Other Publications

“Book Review: Prosper or Perish: Credit and Fiscal Systems in Rural China by Lynette H. Ong,”
Journal of Asian Studies, 2014.

Teaching

Development Economics with Applications to China, Masters in Chinese Economy Program,
Renmin University of China (2015)

Impact Evaluation Methods, Center for Experimental Economics in Education, Shaanxi Normal
University (2014, 2015)

Presentations

2015: AEA Annual Meeting; Western Economic Association International (WEAI) Conference;
Pacific Conference for Development Economics (PacDev); Asian Family in Transition
Initiative, University of Chicago Center, Hong Kong; Association for Asian Studies Annual
Conference; Central University of Economics and Business, Beijing; International
Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE)

2014: Royal Economic Society Graduate Conference, University College London; National
Graduate Research Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Tokyo, Japan; Chinese Economist
Society North America Conference; Public Economics UK (PEUK) Conference; Stanford
University, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies; Chinese Center for
Agricultural Policy; Tsinghua University; Central University of Finance and Economics,
Beijing; Bristol University

2013: Chinese Economist Society Annual Conference; Stanford University, Stanford Center for
International Development (SCID)

2012: Tsinghua University; Chinese Economist Society Annual Conference; Northwest
Socioeconomic Development Research Center, Xi'an, China

2011: Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC); Minding the Gap: 3ie Impact
Evaluation Conference

2008: West China Development Conference, Xi'an, China

Funding

“Food Safety Salience and Nutrition” Funded by the International Food Policy Research Institute
(IFPRI) and Renmin University. ~\$16,000 (with Vivian Hoffmann)

“Using Standardized Patients to Measure and Improve the Quality of Health Care in Rural China”
Funded by the World Bank. ~\$45,000 (with Yaojiang Shi and Scott Rozelle)

“Designs for Teacher Incentives” (Year 2 Funding) Funding from the Xu Family Charitable
Foundation. ~\$200,000 (with Prashant Loyalka, Scott Rozelle and Yaojiang Shi)

“Designs for Teacher Incentives” Funded by the Ford Foundation, Xu Family Charitable
Foundation and REAP. ~\$400,000 (with Prashant Loyalka, Scott Rozelle and Yaojiang Shi)
Stanford Center for International Development (SCID) Grant. ~\$50,000

Professional Memberships

American Economic Association; Association of Environmental and Resource Economists;
Agricultural and Applied Economics Association; Association for Asian Studies; Chinese
Economists Society; Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group

Other Employment

Short-term Consultant, Development Research Group, World Bank, 2010-2012

Analyst, Japan Section, Glass Lewis & Co., 2007

English Instructor, Wall Street English (Beijing, China), 2006

English Instructor, ECC Foreign Language Institute (Osaka, Japan), 1999-2000

Languages

English (Native), Mandarin, Japanese (JLPT Level 2)