

Jiaping Xu

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Education	Guangxi University	Sep. 2019 – Jun. 2023
	Master of Landscape and Architecture	
	China West Normal University	Sep. 2014 – Jun. 2018
	Bachelor of Software Engineering	

Selected Curriculum	Theory of Landscape Architecture	Landscape Planning and Design
	Garden Plants Applications	Plant Landscape Planning
	Urban Forestry	Management of Urban green space
	Engineering of Landscape Architecture	Ecology Basis
	Advanced Mathematics	Probability and Mathematical Statistics
	Linear Algebra	Introduction to Computers
	Database Theory	Data Structure and Algorithms
	Computer Network Basis	Web Development Technology
	Operating System Principles	Object-Oriented Programming
	Java Language Programming	C Language Programming

Research Experience

Research Assistant to Prof Aiwu Jiang Jul. 2023 – Current
Guangxi University, China

Responsibilities: The role assisted with the data collection, analysis, and dissemination phases of an SMNNR (Shankou Mangrove National Nature Reserve) funded project titled ‘Beihai Coastal Wetland Ecological Protection and Restoration Project - Resources and Ecological Environment Monitoring from 2022’. This project investigates the biodiversity of the SMNNR, including plant, insect, benthos, bird, and mammal diversity. My responsibilities have included:

- Review and edit the annual biodiversity report of the reserve
- Draft the project display board and make science communication
- Investigate bird diversity within the reserve
- Analyze bird diversity data and summarize the result
- Draft bird diversity report

Research Publications

[1] **Xu, J.**, & Jiang, A. (2022). Effects of nature contact on children’s willingness to conserve animals under rapid urbanization. *Global Ecology and Conservation*, 38.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2022.e02278>

In this study, we conducted a questionnaire survey of school children from 4th to 5th grade and investigated their knowledge, likeability of species, and willingness to conserve wild animals, as well as the associations between nature contact (direct and indirect forms) and these outcomes.

Keywords: Wildlife conservation; nature contact; environmental psychology

[2] **Xu, J.**, & Jiang, A. (2023). Public Opinions on Stray Cats in China, Evidence from Social Media Data. *Animals*, 13(3). <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani13030457>

Using user-generated content from Weibo, this study investigated Chinese citizens’ opinions on

stray cats on a large scale. Management implications were proposed based on the detailed results.

Keywords: Stray cats; public opinion; management policy; social media data

[3] **Xu, J.**, Yan, P., Liu, Z., Qin, H., & Jiang, A. (2023). Avitourism as an aspect of sustainable mountain development: a case study from Southern China. *Eco.Mont*, 15(1), 38–45.

<https://doi.org/10.1553/eco.mont-15-1s38>

We conducted a case study of the Nonggang avitourism project in Southern China to explore the impacts of the activity on livelihoods and conservation in a mountainous region. Results showed that avitourism has the potential to support sustainable mountain development by diversifying mountain people's livelihoods and raising their awareness of sustainability, as well as their willingness to conserve biodiversity.

Keywords: Avitourism, sustainable development, livelihood improvement, biodiversity conservation, mountainous protected areas

[4] **Xu, J.**, Gibson, L. & Jiang, A. Characterizing China's illegal trade in avifauna on social media. (under review)

Keywords: Illegal wildlife trade; biodiversity conservation; avian conservation; social media data; China

This study used social media data to characterize China's illegal online trade in avifauna for conservation implications. The result indicated that 220 avian species have been posted online for illegal trading. Birds' morphological and ecological traits were also included to investigate their impacts on trade intensity. Suggestions for online wildlife trade monitoring and species conservation were addressed from the supply side, transactional aspects, and demand side.

Skills

Basics of Statistics (e.g., application and interpretation of descriptive statistical analysis, analysis of variance, general linear regression, generalized linear regression, and linear mixed-effects models)

Relevant readings (*Biostatistical Analysis; Regression Modelling Strategies; Linear Algebra*)

Basics of Machine learning (e.g., Support vector machines, decision trees, ensemble learning, random forests, principal component analysis, factor analysis, and unsupervised learning technologies)

Relevant readings (*An Introduction to Statistical Learning; The Elements of Statistical Learning; Multivariate Data Analysis; Hands-on Machine Learning with Scikit-Learn, Keras, and Tensorflow; Basics of Natural Language Programming*)

Data processing with R

Data processing with Python

Language Skills ILTES 6.5 (Listening 6.5 Reading 7.5 Writing 6 Speaking 6.5)

Research Interests Urban ecology; biodiversity conservation; interdisciplinary research; social media data for research; social science computation

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