

# Molin Qin

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## Education

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**University of Wisconsin–Madison** 2023–Present

Ph.D. in Agricultural & Applied Economics

Advisors: Corbett Grainger and Sarah Johnston

Expected Graduation: May 2028

**Binghamton University, State University of New York** 2023

B.S. in Economic Analysis; B.S. in Mathematical Sciences

Selected Honors: President’s Scholarship; Clifford R. Kern Award for Academic Excellence in Economics; J. C. Liu Prize for Outstanding Honors Thesis; Provost’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research; Award for Excellence in Mathematical Sciences

## Research Interests

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Environmental and Energy Economics, Empirical Industrial Organization, Applied Econometrics

## Publications

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**“The High Cost of Low Range: Estimating the Hidden Cost of Range Anxiety in Electric Vehicles”**

with Jonathan B. Scott

*Journal of Industrial Economics*, 74(1), 2026, pp. 140–158. DOI: [10.1111/joie.70015](https://doi.org/10.1111/joie.70015)

*Abstract:* This paper studies range anxiety as a welfare loss created by the mismatch between latent travel demand and battery range. Using variation in local electricity prices and vehicle range, we estimate that prospective EV consumers face average welfare costs of roughly \$2,500–\$3,400 per year through the range-anxiety channel. The results highlight an additional margin through which EV costs can exceed those of conventional vehicles and inform policies designed to accelerate EV adoption.

## Working Papers

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**“The Long Run Costs of Short Run Mispricing: How Dynamic Generation Costs and Local Traffic Patterns Shape the Charging Network”**

with Jonathan B. Scott

*Abstract:* This paper shows that time-of-use electricity pricing can shape long-run public charging-station entry by interacting with predictable, exogenous local traffic patterns. Using quasi-experimental changes in California utility TOU schedules and variation in intra-day foot traffic across markets, we estimate how margins and entry incentives shift across space. We then compare private incentives with a social benchmark based on hourly marginal generation damages.

**“(Dis)Investment Under Uncertainty: Evidence from *McGirt v. Oklahoma*”**

with Sarah Johnston and Dominic Parker

*Abstract:* We study how policy uncertainty affects natural-resource extraction and investment following the July 2020 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *McGirt v. Oklahoma*, which restored federally recognized Indian Reservation status to much of eastern Oklahoma. Using well-level production records and lease-level data from 2016–2024, we find that production from wells drilled before the ruling rose on tribal lands relative to non-tribal lands, consistent with accelerated extraction before rules change. In contrast, net leasing on tribal lands declined sharply after the ruling and did not recover alongside non-tribal leasing during the 2021–2022 price rally. The results show how uncertainty can reshape extraction and investment decisions before concrete policy changes occur.

## Research Experience

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Research Assistant for Sarah Johnston, University of Wisconsin–Madison 2023–Present

Supported research in energy and transportation economics, including work related to EV adoption and charging infrastructure. For *Electric Vehicle Subsidies and Urban Air Pollution Disparities* (Irene Jacqz and Sarah Johnston, *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*, 2024), contributed to replication-file preparation, literature review, and code conversion into Python.

Independent and Collaborative Research in Transportation, Energy, and Resource Economics 2023–Present

Developing projects on EV range anxiety, public charging-station location, time-of-use pricing, energy storage, and policy uncertainty in natural resource extraction.

## Teaching Experience

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Teaching Assistant, Commodity Markets (AAE 322), University of Wisconsin–Madison 2025–2026

Led discussion sections, held office hours, and prepared review materials on futures markets, options, and hedging.

## Skills

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**Programming:** Python, Stata, R, Julia, MATLAB, ArcGIS, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

**Languages:** English (fluent), Mandarin Chinese (native)

## References

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Professor

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### Sarah B. Johnston

Associate Professor

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