

## Pengju Zhang

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### EDUCATION

Ph.D., Public Administration and International Affairs 2016  
 Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University  
 Fields: Public Finance & Development Policy | Advisor: John Yinger\*

Graduate Scholar Exchange Program 2012  
 Department of Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University

Master of Public Affairs 2011  
 O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University, Bloomington

B.A., Political Science 2008  
 School of Government, Sun Yat-sen University

### PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Rutgers University, Newark

Associate Professor (with tenure), SPAA 2023-Present  
 Assistant Professor, SPAA 2016-2023  
 Director of International Programs, SPAA 2021-Present  
 Co-Director of International Programs, SPAA 2018-2020

Syracuse University, Graduate Associate 2011-2016  
 Indiana University, Teaching Assistant 2010  
 Peking University-Lincoln Institute Center for Urban Development and Land Policy 2010

### HONORS & AWARDS

Academic Excellence Award, NJ ASPA 2024  
 Best Paper Award, Midwest Public Affairs Conference 2022  
 China Program International Fellowship, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy 2021-2022  
 All-University Doctoral Prize, Syracuse University 2017  
 Doctoral Prize for Best Dissertation, The Maxwell School of Syracuse University 2017  
 Best Student Paper Award, China-America Association for Public Affairs 2016  
 C. Lowell Harriss Dissertation Fellowship, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy 2015  
 Dissertation Fellowship, The Maxwell School of Syracuse University 2015  
 Graduate Associate Award, The Maxwell School of Syracuse University 2011-2014  
 Starr Fellowship, Indiana University, Bloomington 2010  
 National Scholarship, Ministry of Education of China 2008  
 First Prize Scholarship, Sun Yat-sen University, China 2006, 2007

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\* Bill Duncombe was one of my two co-mentors before he passed away in May 2013.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

State and Local Public Finance

Local Government Studies

Public Policy Analysis

## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. Nguyen-Hoang, Phuong, **Pengju Zhang** and Bart Hildreth. Accepted. [Which Survey Report to Use? A Revisit to the 1934 Survey of Public Finance Scholars](#). *National Tax Journal*.
2. Hayes, Michael, Julia Sass Rubin and **Pengju Zhang**. (2023) [The State Takeover of the Camden City District Schools and Students' Academic Performance: A Descriptive Analysis](#). *Journal of Urban Affairs*.  
\*\*\*Coverage in [Insider NJ](#), [Chalkbeat](#), [NJ Spotlight News](#)
3. **Zhang, Pengju** and Phuong Nguyen-Hoang. 2023. [Home Rule and Municipal Revenue Stability: New Evidence from Texas](#). *Public Budgeting and Finance* 43(1):38-60.
4. Li, Huiping, David Guo, and **Pengju Zhang**. 2023. [The Fiscal Impact of County-Urban District Conversion in China](#). *Urban Affairs Review* 59(3): 892–917.
5. **Zhang, Pengju**. 2023. [The Fiscal and Economic Impacts of Municipal Dissolution: Evidence from New York](#). *International Tax and Public Finance* 30(4): 948–1001.
6. **Zhang, Pengju**, Phuong Nguyen-Hoang and Na Chen. 2022. [The Impact of Home Rule on Municipal Boundary and Fiscal Expansion: Evidence from Texas](#). *Journal of Regional Science*.  
\*\*\*Best Paper Award, Midwest Public Affairs Conference, 2022  
\*\*\*Top Downloaded Article, 2022
7. Nguyen-Hoang, Phuong and **Pengju Zhang**. 2022. [Cap and Gap: The Fiscal Effects of Property Tax Levy Limits in New York](#). *Education Finance and Policy* 17(1): 1–26.  
\*\*\*Lead Article
8. **Zhang, Pengju** and Ling Zhu. 2021. [Does the ACA Medicaid Expansion Affect Hospitals' Financial Performance?](#) *Public Finance Review* 49(6): 779–814.
9. **Zhang, Pengju** and Yilin Hou. 2020. [The Impact of Tax and Expenditure Limitations on User Fees and Charges in Local Government Finance: Evidence from New England](#). *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* 50(1): 81-108.
10. Lu, Jiahuan, Jongmin Shon and **Pengju Zhang**. 2020. [Understanding the Dissolution of Nonprofit Organizations: A Financial Management Perspective](#). *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* 49(1): 29-52.
11. **Zhang, Pengju** and Marc Holzer. 2020. [Do Small Local Governments Fare Well? A Survey of Villages in New York](#). *American Review of Public Administration* 50(1): 77-91.
12. **Zhang, Pengju**. 2019. [The Non-Randomness of Municipal Government Reorganization: Evidence from Village Dissolution in New York](#). *American Review of Public Administration* 49(8): 914-930.
13. Toossi, Saied and **Pengju Zhang**. 2019. [Video Gambling Adoption and Tax Revenues: Evidence from Illinois](#). *Public Budgeting and Finance* 39(1): 67-88.  
\*\*\*Top Downloaded Paper, 2018-2019
14. Kioko, Sharon and **Pengju Zhang**. 2019. [Impacts of Tax and Expenditure Limits on Local Government Use of Tax-supported Debt](#). *Public Finance Review* 47 (2): 409-432.

15. **Zhang, Pengju.** (2018). [The Unintended Impact of Tax and Expenditure Limitations on the Use of Special Districts: Politics of Circumvention.](#) *Economics of Governance* 19(1): 21-50.
16. Duncombe, William D., John Yinger, and **Pengju Zhang.** 2016. [How Does School District Consolidation Affect Property Values: A Case Study of New York.](#) *Public Finance Review* 44 (1): 52-79.
17. He, Yanling, Xiaofeng Zhou, and **Pengju Zhang.** 2009. [Non-Cooperation: A Case Study of Chinese Grass-Root Organizations' Survival Strategies.](#) *Journal of Public Management (in Chinese)* 6(1): 48-54.

#### **PAPERS UNDER REVIEW/REVISION**

18. **Pengju Zhang** and David Guo. [Fiscal Sustainability: Topics and Challenges.](#) (Under Review)
19. Carolyn Abott and **Pengju Zhang.** [Local Electoral Rules and Government Size.](#) (Under Review)
20. Zimeng Ye and **Pengju Zhang.** [Understanding Sanction Measures in Public Accountability.](#) (Under Review)

#### **OTHER PUBLICATIONS (PUBLISHED REPORTS, POLICY BRIEFS, ETC.)**

1. Nguyen-Hoang, Phuong and **Pengju Zhang.** 2023. [Introduction to the Special Issue on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Municipal Taxes, Part Two.](#) *Municipal Finance Journal*, 44(2):1-2.
2. Nguyen-Hoang, Phuong and **Pengju Zhang.** 2023. [Introduction to the Special Issue on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Municipal Taxes, Part One.](#) *Municipal Finance Journal*, 44(1):1-2.
3. Hayes, Michael and **Pengju Zhang.** February 2022. [Vacant Commercial Property in New Jersey: Causes and Solutions.](#) *New Jersey State Policy Lab.*
4. Hayes, Michael, **Pengju Zhang,** and Julia Sass Rubin. May 2021. [State Takeover of Camden School Did Not Improve Students' Academic Performance.](#) *New Jersey Policy Perspective.*

#### **WORK IN PROGRESS**

1. “The Bankruptcy of Special Districts: A Financial Mess or A Political Failure?” with Jinah Yoo and Carolyn Abott (preliminary draft available)
2. “Are Women More Compassionate Public Policy Makers? Evidence from New York” with Ying Liu.
3. “A Win-win Game for Local Governments and Citizens? The Impact of County-Urban District Conversion on Public Service Delivery in China.” with David Guo and Huiping Li (preliminary draft available)
4. “Does New Jersey’s Property Tax Cap Make Fiscal “Cents” and Educational Sense?” with Julia Sass Rubin and Bruce Baker (preliminary results available)
5. “Medicaid Expansion, Networking Strategies, and Hospital Closures.” with Ling Zhu and Yusun Kim.

6. “Medicaid Expansion and an Escalation of Hospitals’ Arms Race.” with Ling Zhu and Yusun Kim.
7. “Local Fiscal Pressure, Traffic Fines and Policing Behaviors” with Kelsey Shoub and Miyeon Song.
8. “On the Measure of Local Property Tax Incidence” with John Yinger and Phuong Nguyen-Hoang

## GRANTS

### New Jersey Policy Lab

- Principal Investigator with Michael Hayes, \$22,177 2024  
Project: “The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Local Governments in New Jersey: An Equity Perspective”
- Co-principal Investigator with Michael Hayes, \$15,000 2021-2022  
Project: “Vacant Commercial Property in New Jersey: Causes and Solutions”

### Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

- China Program International Fellowship (PI), \$35,000 2021-2022
  - Co-PIs: David Guo and Huiping Li
  - Project: “Is It a Win-win Situation for Local Governments and Citizens?  
-The Impact of County-Urban District Conversion in China”
- C. Lowell Harriss Dissertation Fellowship, \$10,000 2015

### Rutgers University-Newark

- Junior Faculty COVID Grant, \$3,000 2021-2022
- SPAA Faculty Research Grant
  - \$4,920 (2018)
  - \$4,000 (2017)
  - \$3,534 (2016)

### The Maxwell School of Syracuse University

- Dissertation Fellowship, \$22,000 2015
- Summer Research Grant
  - \$1,750 (2015)
  - \$1,200 (2014)
  - \$1,535 (2013)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Rutgers University, Newark

Fall 2016-Present

1. Public Budgeting and Finance -PhD Core Course (Instructor)
2. Economic Issues in Public Administration - MPA Core Course (Instructor)
3. Public Budgeting Systems - MPA Core Course (Instructor)
4. Government Revenue Systems - MPA Elective Course (Instructor)



Fudan University, Shanghai, China

- Public Finance Seminar: “Cap and Gap: The Fiscal Effects of Property Tax Levy Limits in New York”, 7/28/2020

Shandong University, Qingdao, China

- Seminar: Writing Empirical Articles: Challenges and Strategies, 07/07/2023
- Seminar: Difference-in-Difference & Synthetic Control Model, 6/12/2020
- Lecture: Taxes and User Fees in Local Government Finance, 7/1/2019

Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China

- Dicu Lecture Series: Understanding the Bankruptcy of Local Governments.6/20/2023
- Seminar: Fiscal Federalism, 10/29/2020
- Seminar: Property Tax in the U.S., 5/8/2019
- Seminar: Difference-in-Differences & Synthetic Control Model. 12/11/2017

Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China

- Seminar: Understanding Local Government Restructure: Theories and Practices, 7/2023
- Seminar: Regression Discontinuity Design, 6/8/2022
- Seminar: Difference-in-Difference & Synthetic Control Model, 6/9/2020
- Lecture: The Rapid Growth of Special Districts in the U.S., 7/4/2018

Central University of Finance and Economics, Beijing, China

- Ph.D. Seminar: Public Finance and Policy Analysis, 6/4/2018 – 6/14/2018

Rutgers University - New Brunswick, New Jersey

- Yunnan Provincial Department of Finance Official - Fall Program  
10/16/2017 - 10/19/2017  
Topic 1: “Government Budget: Federal, State and Local”  
Topic 2: “Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations in the U.S.”  
Topic 3: “Public Revenue and Property Tax in the U.S.”

New York University

- Wagner School, Summer Workshop for Northeastern ABFM Scholars, 05/26/2017

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Municipal Finances: A National Perspective”

- New Jersey League of Municipalities Annual Conference, Atlantic City, NJ, Nov. 2023

“Are Women More Compassionate Policy Makers? Evidence from New York”

- Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Denver, CO, Oct. 2023

“The Bankruptcy of Special Districts: An Exploratory Study”

- Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Denver, CO, Oct. 2023
- Public Management Research Conference, Utrecht, Netherlands, June, 2023

“How Does Policy Framing Affect Voters’ Fiscal Behaviors? An Experimental Study”

- Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Miami, FL, Sep. 2022

“Local Electoral Rules and Government Size: Evidence from California”

- Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Miami, FL, Sep. 2022

“Does the ACA Medicaid Expansion Affect Hospitals’ Financial Performance?”

- Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Washington, D.C. Oct. 2021

- “Home Rule and Municipal Fiscal Performance: New Evidence for A Perennial Question”
- Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Washington, D.C. Oct. 2021
- “Cap and Gap: The Fiscal Effects of Property Tax Levy Limits in New York”
- Association for Public Policy and Management, Denver, CO, Nov. 2019
  - Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Washington, D.C. Oct. 2019
- “The Effects of Property Tax Caps on Educational Inputs: The Case of New York.”
- Association for Education Finance and Policy, Kansas City, Missouri. March 2019.
- “The Non-Randomness of Municipal Government Reorganization: Evidence from Village Dissolution in New York.”
- American Society for Public Administration, Washington D.C. March 2019
- “Does State Takeover of School District Make a Difference?”
- Association for Education Finance and Policy, Kansas City, Missouri. March 2019.
  - Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Denver, CO, Oct. 2018 (panel organizer and chair)
- “From Fiscal Stress to Organizational Decline: What’s Happening to Village Governments in New York State?”
- American Society for Public Administration, Denver, CO, March 2018
- “Tax and Expenditure Limitations and User Charges – Explaining Paradigm Shifts in Local Public Finance”
- European Public Choice Society Conference, Rome, Italy. April 2018.
  - Public Choice Society Conference. Charleston, SC, March 2018
  - Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Seattle, Washington, Oct. 2016
- “Determinants of Video Gaming Terminal Revenue in Illinois”
- Association for Public Policy and Management, Chicago, Illinois, Fall 2017
  - Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Washington, D.C. Oct. 2017 (poster)
- “Access Gap in New York State”
- Association of Education Finance and Policy, Denver, CO, March 2016 (poster)
- “The Unintended Impact of Tax and Expenditure Limitations on The Use of Special Districts: Politics of Circumvention”
- National Tax Association, Boston, MA, Nov. 2015
- “How Does the Change of Local Government Structure Affect Property Values? A Case Study of Village Dissolution in Upstate New York”
- Public Finance and the New Economy Conference, Georgia State University, April 26, 2018
  - Association for Public Policy and Management, Miami, Florida, Nov. 2015 (panel organizer and chair)
  - Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Washington, D.C. Oct. 2015 (discussant)
- “Impacts of Tax and Expenditure Limits (TEs) on Local Government Debt Burdens”

- Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Grand Rapids, MI, Oct. 2014
- “How Does School District Consolidation Affect Property Values?”
- Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, New York City, NY Oct. 2012
- “Local Government Innovations in China.”
- Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 2010

## **SERVICE**

### **School of Public Affairs and Administration, Rutgers University-Newark**

- Director of International Programs, 2021 -
- Co-Director of International Programs, 2018-2020
- MPA Program Committee, 2022 -2023
- NTT reappointment committee, 2020 -
- Research Committee, 2021 - 2022
- International Program Committee, 2017-
- Undergraduate Program Committee 2016 - 2018
- Teaching Evaluation Committee, 2018 -

### **Member of Ph.D. Dissertation Committee**

- Jinah Yoo (expected 2025)  
Chair: Gregg G. Van Ryzin  
School of Public Affairs and Administration, Rutgers University-Newark
- Ying Liu (expected 2025)  
Chair: Norma Riccucci  
School of Public Affairs and Administration, Rutgers University-Newark
- Amber Williams (expected 2023)  
Chair: Stephanie Newbold  
School of Public Affairs and Administration, Rutgers University-Newark
- Ajay Srikanth (2022)  
Chair: Bruce Baker  
Graduate School of Education, Rutgers University-New Brunswick
- Olugbenga Sonola (2018)  
Chair: Cleopatra Charles  
School of Public Affairs and Administration, Rutgers University-Newark

### **American Society for Public Administration**

- Section on Chinese Public Administration (SCPA)
  - Section Secretary (appointed), 2018 – 2020
  - SCPA Board Election Committee member, 2022
- Chinese Public Administration Review
  - Best Article Award Selection Committee member, 2019

### **China-America Association for Public Affairs**

- Treasurer, 2022 - present
- Board Member (elected), 2021 - present
- Best Article Award Selection Committee member, 2021
- Board Member Election Committee member, 2022

### **Education Reform, Communities, and Social Justice: Exploring the Intersections**

- Conference Organizing Committee, 2022

### **Editorial Service**

- Associate editor, *Public Performance & Management Review* (2022 - present)
- Guest editor, Special Issue on The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Municipal Taxes, *Municipal Finance Journal* (2022).
- Editorial board member, *Local Government Studies* (2022-2028)
- Manuscript Reviewer:
  - *Applied Economic Letters*
  - *American Review of Public Administration*
  - *Economics of Governance*
  - *IEEE Transactions on Computational Social Systems*
  - *International Public Management Journal*
  - *Journal of Chinese Governance*
  - *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*
  - *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs*
  - *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting & Financial Management*,
  - *Local Government Studies*
  - *Public Administration Review*
  - *Public Budgeting and Finance*
  - *Public Finance Review*
  - *Public Performance & Management Review*
  - *Public Personnel Management*
  - *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*
  - *Urban Affairs Review*
  - *Urban Governance*

### **Memberships & Affiliations**

- American Society for Public Administration
- Association for Budgeting and Financial Management
- National Tax Association
- Association for Public Policy and Management
- Association for Education Finance and Policy