

Interview with Dr. Xiaoxia Xie, visiting scholar at Huamin Research Center, Rutgers University -

Di Sun, Huamin Research Center

Dr. Xiaoxia Xie is a visiting scholar at Huamin Research Center at Rutgers University. Her stay is from August 2014 to August 2015. Dr. Xie is an assistant professor at Beihang University in China. The following is a summary of Dr. Xie's experience as a visiting scholar.

A. Why did you choose to be a visiting scholar at Rutgers University?

Rutgers University is a very good university, especially its School of Social Work. Dr. Huang, the director of Huamin Research Center, met me in the TOT project that was co-organized by Rutgers University and Beijing Normal University in 2012. Then we continued our collaboration for academic research. In addition, my research interest is nonprofit organization, especially the internal administrative issues in philanthropy foundations, like transparency, governance structure, administrative efficiency, and predicting factors to donations. Dr. Huang is also interested in NGO related research. Therefore, I eventually chose to study and work at Rutgers for one year.

B. Please tell us about your research prior to your visit at Rutgers.

I transferred my research interests from information disclosure of the listed companies to nonprofit organization management two years ago. This is mainly due to the scandals in China's philanthropy sector in 2011, like the Guo Meimei Incident. Therefore my research interest was transferred to nonprofit organizations, especially transparency of philanthropy foundations, with the emphasis on internal administrative issues of China's foundations. So far, I have published more than twenty academic articles in China's CSSCI journals, led over a dozen projects at the national and ministry levels, and led two UNDP projects. I also have one copyright for one computer software. Because I have not been in this area for a long time, I only published three NGO related articles and led seven NGO ministerial research projects. I will continue to work in this area. I had short-term academic visits to the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Tokyo Science University in 2012 and 2014, both visits focusing on NGO internal administration.

C. What is your study and research process at Rutgers now?

During my visit to Huamin Research Center, I collaborated with them to complete a project for the China Ministry of Civil Affairs, entitled *Comparative Study of Philanthropy Organization System between China and the US*. Currently, I lead three different ministerial projects: *Cost Items and Cost Standards of Beijing's Home-based Care System for Elderly* funded by Beijing Social Science Foundation; *Cost-Benefit Analysis of Government Purchase Home-based Care System for Elderly* funded by Policy Analysis Project of China Ministry of Civil Affairs; and *Policy Analysis for Regulating Business Activities of Social Organizations* Funded by Social Organization Construction and Management Theory Research Project by China Ministry of Civil Affairs.

During my visit at Rutgers, I have enjoyed very happy study and life. I took two courses from the School of Social Work – *Nonprofit Organization Management* and *Aging & Gero Services*, both have given me great inspirations for my teaching in MPA program after I come back to China. Dr. Huang and I co-authored a paper which is under review. I learned a lot about how to write international academic articles from Dr. Huang in the writing process. In November 2014, together with colleagues from Huamin Research Center and the School of Social Work at Rutgers University, I went to Denver for the 2015 annual ARNOVA conference, which is a leading international conference in NGO research. In the conference, I had academic exchanges with scholars from around the world and met many scholars in the same research area as me. I gained a lot from it. I also presented in the conference, which provided me more opportunities to discuss deeply with scholars from around the world.

The School of Social Work at Rutgers University provides many symposiums and lectures for visiting scholars, which give me opportunities to conduct comprehensive academic exchanges with the US professors. During my visiting period, Huamin Research Center invited renowned professors in China to give lectures, which provided opportunities for us to communicate closely with scholars from China. In short, in my one-year visit at Rutgers, with the help of Dr. Huang and colleagues at Rutgers, I have improved in both my study and research. Full of gratitude, I thank Rutgers for this precious visiting opportunity.

D. Please talk about your experiences and feelings at the Huamin Research Center.

Huamin Research Center is a very welcoming place. It has a very strong spirit of teamwork. Dr. Huang cares a lot for visiting scholars and provides lots of help to visiting scholars for both their life and work. He not only provides good hardware conditions for visiting scholars, but also creates computer accounts for all visiting scholars so that we can login computers at center and downloaded electronic materials from Rutgers library for free. At the same time, Dr. Huang also provided me many opportunities to communicate with high-level scholars, for example, by making an appointment with Dr. Waldman for me, discussing my research paper, introducing renowned Dr. Guosheng Deng from China to me, bringing me to the ARNOVA international conference, and providing me with opportunities to present at the conference. All these experiences made me keep on developing my ability and improving myself.

Dr. Huang also cares a lot about my family. For example, my parents and my child were not well adapted to life in the US. Following the initiate of Dr. Huang, in every domestic festivals, Huamin Center will host gatherings, such as on the Lantern Festival and the Spring Festival. The activities bring visiting scholars who are outside their country a sense of home. Therefore, I can work and study happily every day in the Huamin Center. Because there is such a team, I can really focus on my research. Thank you, Dr. Huang! Thank you, everyone at the Huamin Center!

E. Please talk about how the experiences at Huamin Research Center affected you.

This one year at the Huamin Center is very important experience in my life. Here, I learned rigorous attitude to research. Every teacher at Rutgers is very professional and has rigorous attitude to research, which have greatly inspired me for my further academic research. After cooperating with Dr. Hu to write a paper, I found my past deficiencies in writing papers and learned the writing skills and structure of paper for publication in international journals, which provided great help to my academic research in the future. Meanwhile, this visit also builds a platform for collaboration between Rutgers University and Beihang University and places a good foundation for university-level and department-level collaboration.

F. Please tell us your future plans and ideas for after you complete your visit.

After the visit, I will continue my research in my current area and strengthen collaboration with the Huamin Research Center. In the future, I hope we can form a good partnership mode, such as regular co-organizing international conferences, co-authoring academic paper, and collaboration and communications among teachers and students. Recent plan is that we will cooperate with the Huamin Research Center next year in an international conference hosted by Beihang University.

G. What is your expectation for Huamin Research Center?

I hope Huamin Center will continually work on China's foundation issues and host annual meetings at Beihang University. I hope Huamin Center can provide more research projects for teachers of Chinese universities, or set up some cooperative projects that teachers from Chinese universities can apply in order to fund more teachers to visit and learn at the Huamin Center.

I sincerely wish that Huamin Center will be better and become a renowned center for research on China's NGO issues. I look forward to more research from Huamin Center and wish it the best.



Dr Xiaoxia Xie at Old Queens Campus at Rutgers University, which was built in 1809



Dr. Xiaoxia Xie at the School of Social Work at Rutgers University



(Left to right): Dr. Rida Ga, visiting scholar at Huamin Research Center; Elsie Foster-Dublin, council of Highland Park; Dr. Xiaoxia Xie; Gayle Brill Mittler, mayor of Highland Park; and Dr. Chien-Chung Huang, director of Huamin Research Center



(Left to right): Dr. Rida Ga; Dr. Jeff Wang, director of Rutgers China Office; Dr. Yuying Zhong; Dr. Jing Hu; Dr. Xiaoxia Xie; and Dr. Chien-Chung Huang, director of Huamin Research Center



(Left to right): Dr. Chien-Chung Huang, director of Huamin Research Center; Dr. Guosheng Deng; Andy Germak; Dr. Xiaoxia Xie; Shuang Lu, and Yugi Wang attending ANOVA conference in Denver, CO