

# XUEZHU “GILLIAN” ZHAO

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## EDUCATION

### University of Pennsylvania

Master of City Planning Candidate, Concentration in Smart Cities

- Weitzman Departmental Scholarship, 2020-2022

Philadelphia PA, U.S.A.

Expected: Sep 2020 - May 2022

### University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and Planning

- Minor in Informatics; Certification in Leadership
- GPA: 3.98/4.00; top 3% of graduating class
- Outstanding Junior Award (Top 1% with outstanding academic performance and extracurricular involvement)
- James Scholar Program (Recognition for those who developed independent knowledge for their future career)

Urbana IL, U.S.A.

Sep 2016 - May 2020

### Relevant Coursework

- Learned real estate finance, appraisal, investment, law, brokerage, management, development, and economics in a Fundamentals of Real Estate course
- Assembled a Development Plan which won first place in a Land Development Process course
- Proposed a strategic plan prioritizing business viability and urban design to prepare a regional commercial center for possible downturn of big-box retail in a Land Use Planning Workshop
- Developed an R program to efficiently identify an urban area that best matches one's socioeconomic background in an R Programming for GIS course
- Learning advanced spatial analysis to understand how to allocate limited resource in a Public Policy Analytics course

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Champaign County Regional Planning Commission

Planning Intern

Urbana IL, U.S.A.

Jan 2010 – April 2020

- Assisted with planning projects including the Champaign County Transportation Plan and Census Outreach events
- Created location maps, land use maps, and traffic crashes maps for all townships within the County
- Visualized demographic data and produced accessible factsheets through InDesign
- Informed and educated residents about the 2020 Census and assisted them in completing the Census questionnaire

Data Collection Intern

Oct 2019 – Dec 2019

- Collected and analyzed field data on their compliance of sidewalk network features with Americans with Disabilities Act
- Recorded traffic usage for the Urbana Kickapoo Rail Trail Extension Study
- Examined agency's website development and made corrections for accuracy on WordPress

### Safe Routes Program/Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District

Safe Routes to Parks Program Intern

Urbana IL, U.S.A.

May 2019 – Jul 2019

- Piloted the program to improve health conditions and the well-being of the community
- Conducted audits for community residents to walk to 2 neighborhood parks in collaboration with 11 volunteers
- Collected and analyzed data to generate reports documenting areas of improvement such as overgrown landscapes, cracked sidewalks, and inappropriate driving behavior
- Produced interactive Google MyMaps to document conditions and infrastructure of walking routes
- Presented updated results to boards and commissions including Urbana Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission, Urbana Park District, and the Healthy Champaign County Board

### China Daily

Journalism Intern, Economics and Business Department

Beijing, China

Jun 2018 – Jul 2018

- Researched topics related to planning and development in China
- Investigated current impact of economic reforms in Beijing's Economic and Technical Development Area at a two-day press conference
- Edited information collected from China Gold Expo and drafted articles regarding industries' social responsibility towards sustainability
- Interviewed the Chief Information Officer of China Energy Net Consulting, on Chinese-African renewable energy cooperation

## ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- Software: Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite, ArcGIS, QGIS, Adobe InDesign and Illustrator, R, python, SketchUp
- Language: Native Mandarin Chinese speaker with fluent English