

## Ren Cao

### School Address

College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment, Auburn University  
602 Duncan Dr, 4401, Auburn, AL 36849

### Contact Information

rzc0103@auburn.edu  
+1 334-844-1007

### Education Experiences

*Ph.D. Student, Forestry with concentration in Earth System Science*

**Auburn University, Auburn, AL**

Transferred to in August 2023

Advisor: Dr. Li An

Current

*Ph.D. Student, Joint Doctoral Program in Geography*

**San Diego State University, San Diego, CA**

**University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA** Advisor: Dr. Konstadinos Goulias

GPA: 3.9/4.0

Advisor: Dr. Li An

2021 - 2023

*Master of Environmental Policy*

**Duke University, Durham, NC**

**Duke Kunshan University, Kunshan, China**

GPA: 3.762/4.0

Advisor: Dr. Binbin Li

Conferred 2020

*Master of Arts, Food Studies*

**The American University of Rome, Rome, Italy**

GPA: 3.375/4.0

Conferred 2018

*Bachelor of Arts, Comparative Politics (Major), Sociology (Minor)*

**University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, CA**

GPA: 3.475/4.0

Conferred 2016

### Publications

- **Cao, R.**, Glick, J., Yabiku, S., Tran, M., and An, L. (In review), "Drivers and Motivations of Using Biogas Plants for households in the Western Chitwan Valley, Nepal" (Draft Available).
- Måren, I. E., Wiig, H., McNeal, K., Wang, S., Zu, S., **Cao, R.**, Fürst, K. and Marsh, R. (2022) *Diversified Farming Systems: Impacts and Adaptive Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic in the United States, Norway and China*. *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*, 240.

### Conferences

#### Conference Talk

- **Cao, R.** (2024, April). *Drivers and Motivations of Using Biogas Plants for households in the Western Chitwan Valley, Nepal*. Annual Conference of the International Association of Landscape Ecology - North American Chapter, Oklahoma City, OK.
- **Cao, R.** (2017, November). *Urban Farms, City Governments, and Land Ownerships: Dilemmas and Opportunities under the Chinese Collective Property Right Regime*. 8th Annual Conference of the Association of the European Schools of Planning, Coventry, United Kingdom.

#### Poster Presentations

- **Cao, R.**, Huang H., and Wang, Z. (2019, October). *Impacts of High-Speed Railway on Forest Cover Change in China*. Student Conference on Conservation Science in New York, the American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY.

- **Cao, R.** (2018, November). *Analyzing a Government-Funded Urban Agriculture Project in Kunshan, China*. Forum of Health, Environmental and Development, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China.

### Research Experiences

*Biodiversity International*

Research Assistant, Unit of External Engagement, Rome, Italy

November 2016 - May 2017

Director: Richard China

- Evaluated candidate regions in the Mediterranean area for EU-funded small and medium enterprise (SME) development.

*University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, CA*

Research Apprenticeship Program, Department of Political Science

January - June 2016

Advisor: Dr. Konstantin Ash

Topic: *Some People Want the Fall of Regime: Explaining Demands for Regime Change in the Arab World*.

### Teaching Experiences

Teaching Assistant of FOWS 1031: Science of Nature II Laboratory, Auburn University

Spring 2024

Teaching Assistant of GEOG 385: Spatial Data Analysis, San Diego State University

Spring 2022

### Grant

**UC Berkeley Peder Sather Grant.** *Models of sustainable farming; innovation and responsibility repertoires in different geographical contexts*. Total budget: USD 25,000. 2019-2022. **Extended due to COVID-19.** Duke Kunshan Faculty Lead: Kathinka Furst (Duke Kunshan University). Other Investigators: Alastair Iles (PI, UC Berkeley), Robin Marsh (UC Berkeley), and Inger Elisabeth Maren (University of Oslo).

### Honors and Awards

- NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Award for IALE-NA Symposium Presentation, 2024
- UC San Diego Eleanor Roosevelt College Provost Honors (Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Winter 2016, Spring 2016)

### Technical Skills

Proficient in R, Stata, ArcGIS, ENVI, and  $\text{\LaTeX}$ .

Working knowledge in JavaScript, PostgreSQL, and Python.