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Environmental impacts of the global plastic waste trade: assessment and mitigation

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Citation

Li, K. (2025, March 27). *Environmental impacts of the global plastic waste trade: assessment and mitigation*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4209464>

Version: Publisher's Version

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Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

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Curriculum vitae

Kai Li was born on November 29th, 1994, in Handan, Hebei, China. He attended Handan No. 1 High School and later transferred to Tianjin No. 47 High School, where he graduated in 2013. That same year, he was admitted to Wuhan University of Technology and majored in Construction Management, inspired by China's promising real estate markets.

In 2017, he earned an opportunity to pursue a master's degree in Management Science and Engineering at Chongqing University. During the summer of that year, he completed a two-month internship as an on-site construction engineer at Country Garden. This practical but tough experience made him realise that his true passion lay in academia. He became motivated after publishing work on urban economics and sustainability in collaboration with Prof. Zhili Ma and Dr. Minda Ma.

At the end of 2019, while seeking PhD opportunities overseas with an initial focus on urban economics, Dr. Mingming Hu, who was working part-time with Chongqing University, introduced him to Prof. Arnold Tukker during his visit to the university. In an informal discussion, Kai brought up Dr. Hauke Ward, whose research combines economic analysis with broad environmental science. This talk paved the way for Kai to begin his PhD journey on February 15, 2021, under the supervision of Dr. Hauke Ward, Prof. Haixiang Lin, and Prof. Arnold Tukker. His research later shifted its focus to the global trade of plastic waste, a topic he found both nice and intriguing.

List of publications

Li, K.; Ward, H.; Lin, H. X.; Tukker, A. Economic viability requires higher recycling rates for imported plastic waste than expected. *Nature Communications* **2024**, *15* (1), 7578. DOI: 10.1038/s41467-024-51923-4.

Li, K.; Ward, H.; Lin, H. X.; Tukker, A. Traded Plastic, Traded Impacts? Designing Counterfactual Scenarios to Assess Environmental Impacts of Global Plastic Waste Trade. *Environmental Science & Technology* **2024**, *58* (20), 8631-8642. DOI: 10.1021/acs.est.4c02149.

Li, K.; Ma, M.; Xiang, X.; Feng, W.; Ma, Z.; Cai, W.; Ma, X. Carbon reduction in commercial building operations: A provincial retrospection in China. *Applied Energy* **2022**, *306*, 118098. DOI: 10.1016/j.apenergy.2021.118098.

Acknowledgments

I sincerely thank the reading committee members: Prof. dr. ing. M.G. Vijver, Prof. dr. ir. J.B. Guinée, Prof. dr. ing. K.J.P. Ragaert, Prof. dr. E. Worrell, and Dr. J.M. Mogollón for their valuable time in reviewing this thesis.

I owe my deepest gratitude to Prof. Arnold Tukker, whose visit to Chongqing University in 2019 unexpectedly paved my way to Leiden University in 2021. I will never forget how you decisively opposed the idea of using a country's average recycling rate, which sparked our journey to develop a new method for measuring the recycling rate of traded plastic waste. Your leadership brought our team of four together.

Dr. Hauke Ward, you have been a wise, thoughtful, and inspiring mentor throughout this journey. Our discussions were often filled with creative ideas, and your support encouraged me to explore a new research area. Beyond academics, you have also shown me what it means to be a great husband and father, teaching me valuable life lessons.

I sincerely thank Prof. Haixiang Lin (林海翔) for guiding me through the mathematical challenges. Your clear explanations of probability and statistics, along with the carefully derived formulas you shared, were incredibly helpful. From your revisions, I learned the importance of being precise and thorough in mathematical work.

To my parents, Lifeng Jia (贾立峰) and Chunxi Li (李春喜), thank you for always listening to my endless research stories, starting from my master's in Chongqing. You have earned honorary 'PhDs' in our family for your lasting support and patience. I look forward to listening to your "tedious" stories for the rest of my life.

A special thanks to Yanan Liang (梁亚楠). Your support has helped me navigate all the ups and downs over the years. You have always been eager to discuss scientific problems with me, and your insights have inspired me greatly.

I am also deeply grateful to my mentors and friends at CML. Thank you, Mingming (胡鸣明) and Sammy, for introducing me to this institute. My appreciation goes to Ranran (王冉冉) and Arjan for generously offering learning opportunities in their environmentally input-output courses. I greatly appreciate the chance to present my research at conferences generously supported by René Kleijn. To Suiting Ding (丁穗庭), Shijie Wei (魏世杰), and Pengxuan Xie (谢朋轩), your friendship has brought me so much joy. To Sander, Brenda, and Maarten,

it has been a pleasure to work with you at CML. To Nicolas Navarre, both your work and thesis set good examples for me. To my fellow alumni from Chongqing University: Chunbo Zhang (张纯博), Xining Yang (杨希宁), and Xiaoyang Zhong (钟晓阳), I am fortunate to have met and learned from you. To Keyong Deng (邓克勇) and Shuaiqun Pan (潘帅群), thank you for the memorable tennis moments. Xiao Li (李骁), our unbelievable reunion at CML as fellow Handan citizens was a true delight.

Finally, I would like to thank all my colleagues in CML. I am grateful for the four years working with you and look forward to seeing how the institute will continue to thrive in the future.