Vincent Chung

PhD Candidate in Environmental Economics
London School of Economics and Political Science
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Research Fields

Environmental Economics; Non-Market Valuation; Stated Preference Methods; Experimental Economics

Education

PhD in Environmental Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science **2023–present**
Thesis: *Advancing Stated Preference Methods with Virtual Reality* Expected 2027

MSc Environmental Economics and Climate Change, London School of Economics and Political Science **2017**
Distinction; Top Student in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics

BA Economics, University of Manchester **2016**
First Class Honours; Outstanding Academic Award (Top 0.5% of graduating cohort); Cobden Prize in Econometrics and Statistics

Research

Chung, V., Sotis, C., Smith, T., & Atkinson, G. *Seeing Is Believing, but Believing Is Not Paying More: A Field Experiment on Virtual Reality and Coral Reef Valuation.* **Job Market Paper**. [Latest Version]

Abstract: In a randomised field experiment with 837 participants in Brisbane, Australia, we examine whether experiencing Great Barrier Reef degradation through immersive virtual reality, rather than text and images, changes stated conservation preferences and behaviour. VR made reef degradation feel psychologically closer, but did not produce statistically robust changes in willingness to pay, actual donations, or immediate behavioural outcomes after adjustment for multiple testing. Mediation analysis was consistent with reduced psychological distance encouraging conservation engagement, although this interpretation relies on assumptions about unmeasured confounding. Among a smaller, self-selected follow-up sample, we found suggestive evidence that VR participants showed greater reductions in psychological distance between baseline and the one-month follow-up, alongside stronger behavioural intentions and more reported conservation actions. Immersive experiences can therefore bring environmental problems psychologically closer without necessarily increasing willingness to pay to address them.

Chung, V., Atkinson, G., & Smith, T. *Stated Preference Validity in the Age of Immersive Media: Evidence on Scope Sensitivity and Hypothetical Bias. Working Paper.* [PDF]

ECO-CHICA Collaborative Group (including **Chung, V.**). *Consensus Guidelines for the ECOnomiC Evaluation of the Health Impacts of Climate Action (ECO-CHICA): An Explanatory Overview.* Manuscript under review at *The Lancet Planetary Health.* [SSRN]

Sotis, C., Contu, D., Atkinson, G., Dussaux, D., Georgiou, S., Mourato, S., & **Chung, V.** *Valuing the Avoidance of IQ Losses in Children: A Large-Scale Multi-Country Stated Preference Approach. Working Paper.*

Contu, D., Sotis, C., Atkinson, G., **Chung, V.**, Georgiou, S., Dussaux, D., Mourato, S., & Hu, I. *Valuing a Reduction in the Risk of Skin Sensitisation: A Large-Scale Multi-Country Stated Preference Approach. OECD Environment Working Papers*, No. 277, OECD Publishing (2026). [OECD]

Sotis, C., Contu, D., **Chung, V.**, Atkinson, G., & Mourato, S. *Willingness-to-Pay to Ban Octocrylene. Working Paper.* Based on valuation work undertaken for the ANSES *Annex XV Restriction Report — Octocrilene.* [PDF]

Chung, V., Sotis, C., & Ma, J. *Synthetic Respondents for Environmental Valuation: Evidence from*

Open-Weight Large Language Models. Work in Progress.

Chung, V. & Chung, W. *Learning through Immersion: A Randomised Experiment in Climate Education. Work in Progress.*

Applied Research Experience

OECD Environment **2024–2026**
Researcher / Co-author — SWACHE: Valuing Skin Sensitisation

French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) **2024**
Researcher — Economic Valuation of an EU Octocrilene Restriction

Teaching Experience

London School of Economics and Political Science **2024–present**
Graduate Teaching Assistant
MY464 Critical Data Literacy (MSc); *MY451A Introduction to Quantitative Analysis* (MSc); *GY120 Environmental Change* (Undergraduate).

Student evaluation scores: 4.9/5, 5.0/5, 5.0/5, 4.8/5, and 4.9/5 (mean: 4.92/5).

LSE GROUPS **2025**
Research Supervisor
Supervised a seven-student undergraduate research project; awarded Best Methodology Prize.

Teaching Qualifications

Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education (PGCertHE) **2026**

Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA) **2026**

Funding and Awards

2026	**LSE Global School of Sustainability Research Grant**, £40,000 — Lead Researcher and Lead Grant Writer
2026	**LSE Global School of Sustainability PhD Student Grant**, £5,000
2024/25–2025/26	**LSE Students' Union Teaching Award**, Geography and Environment — Winner in both years
2023–present	**LSE PhD Data Science Studentship**, £180,000

Professional Experience

Singapore Armed Forces **2017–2023**
Head of Strategic Policy Section (Assistant Director) Singapore

- Led strategic policy analysis and prepared recommendations for senior government decision-makers.
- Directed long-term planning and cross-agency analytical work, including development of a six-year strategic roadmap.

Languages and Software

Languages: English (native); Mandarin Chinese (native); German (high-intermediate).

Software: R, Stata, Qualtrics, LaTeX, Unity, 3DVista, Insta360 Studio.

References

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