



“From my experience, both career and family are important for a female scientist. It will be good to find a way to balance them. Glad to know that at the University of Hertfordshire, Juno project and the Athena SWAN Charter are supporting women scientists!”

Xin Kong

Research:

Dr Xin Kong is a research fellow at the Centre for Atmospheric and Instrumentation Research (CAIR), University of Hertfordshire, UK. Her current research interests include regional air quality modelling and climate change interactions (focuses on aerosol-climate interactions). She has been actively participating in EU FP7 MEGAPOLI, TRANSPHORM, COST ES1004 action and AQMEII phase 2 and 3. Major achievements from her recent work include: (a) leading the development of interfaces to extract initial and boundary concentrations from global HadGEM2-ES outputs as inputs to CMAQ and WRF; (b) WRF-CMAQ model simulations for the future scenarios for a few EU and UK projects; (c) installed and setup WRF-Chem model sensitivity study to investigate aerosol direct and indirect effects during pollution episodes within AQMEII phase 2.

Xin has been awarded a few small grants and travel funds, which helped her to establish good collaborations with scientists worldwide on modelling of air quality, such as the UK Met Office, the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany, Norwegian Meteorological Institute, Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI) and North Carolina State University (USA). She has published a few joined papers with the research partners. Currently, she is coordinating collaborations with the Chinese partners on simulation of air quality in Chinese megacities, which is very excited to link to her home country and hope to help solve the big air pollution problems in China!

Teaching:

Xin has supervised four undergraduate project students and currently supervising one PhD student. She is a teaching assistant for the Engineering Mathematics.

Personal Path:

Xin was grown up and educated in China. The reason of moving to UK in 2001 was simply because her husband found a job in Norwich. Later she found an opportunity to study her PhD at the University of East Anglia (2002-2006). Her first postdoctoral research fellow was at the University of Leicester. She had a short period career break after the maternity leave in 2008, then found a part-time job in the Geography Department, University of Cambridge (2009-2010) and lived in Cambridge with her husband and a young child. In Cambridge, she had a chance to join Cambridge AWiSE women scientists' network (<http://camawise.org.uk/>), which she learned the different pathways for the women scientists and boosted her confidence for returning to a full-time research fellow at the University of Hertfordshire. The whole family moved to Hatfield since 2010 in order to proceed her career.